

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7253

AN ACT CONCERNING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS OPERATED BY

Title: INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF THE STATE.

Vote Date: 3/12/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement

REASONS FOR BILL:

To ensure that all out-of-state distance learning programs that are offered to Connecticut students meet the required standards set by the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), regardless of whether or not an institution is a member of SARA. Under this bill, the Office of Higher Education (OHE) will have the ability to disallow out-of-state distance learning programs from institutions that are non-members of SARA to be offered to Connecticut students. This bill guarantees programs offered nation-wide to establish similar standards in quality of education to students within our state.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Timothy D. Larson, Executive Director, Office of Higher Education](#): The Office of Higher Education (OHE) is in support of HB 7253. OHE states that "H.B. 7253 attempts to fill in the gap between out-of-state institutions of higher education that are members of SARA and those out-of-state institutions of higher education that are non-members." OHE believes that this bill will "level the playing field" for all member and non-member institutions of SARA by giving OHE the authority to prohibit out-of-state programs from being offered to Connecticut students if they deem a program as one that fails to meet our state's minimal standards of education.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed for Raised Bill No. 7253

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed for Raised Bill No. 7253

Reported by: Beatrice O'Neil

Date: 03/18/2019