

## Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7291

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SECURITY.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/12/2019

**File No.:**

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### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Safety & Security Committee

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

School safety plans can often times be extremely complex. The objective of H.B. 7291 is to simplify the process of submitting school safety plans to receive infrastructure grants. In accordance with the Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection and the Department of Education, this bill would require schools to update their safety plans, as well as create simplified documentation to submit in order to update school security infrastructure and safety procedures.

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

#### **[Brenda Bergeron, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection](#)**

DESPP testified that they are in favor of H.B. 7291. Brenda Bergeron highlighted that DESPP appreciates this bill, and described the work that DESSP is currently conducting in regards to school safety and security plans. She explained that DESSP has already complied with the objective of this proposal. She stated that DESPP and DEMHS have developed templates to assist schools with submitting their infrastructure grants, and that there is technical support for this process that the school districts may utilize.

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

#### **[Connecticut Association of Boards of Education](#)**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) testified that they support the proposed language of H.B. 7291. They expressed that certain school districts have mentioned that the resubmission of safety plans, regardless if there were any changes made, is challenging. They expressed that they are open to working with DESPP to find an effective solution.

**Mike Muszynski, Advocacy Manager, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**

Mr. Muszynski testified that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities appreciate the proposed legislation. He expressed that this bill is going to positively impact school operations in regards to safety standards, as well as simplifying the documentation that must be submitted for infrastructure grants.

**The School Security Working Group, Representatives Borer, Carpino, Hall, Sredzinski, Connecticut General Assembly**

The school security working group expressed that in regards to school protection, they are all proactive in increasing school safety. The legislators highlighted the importance of school children and educators feeling safe. They stated that schools are vulnerable to different kinds of threats, and that every opportunity to guarantee protection should be utilized. They testified that school security is not an issue that is exclusive to one party; it is one that impacts both sides of the aisle.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None was expressed for H.B. 7291

**Reported by: Nicoletta Blevins, Assistant Clerk 4/1/2019**