

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7354

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL

Title: BUILDING PROJECTS STATUTES.

Vote Date: 3/25/2019

JOINT FAVORABLE Substitute Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and

Vote Action: Bonding

PH Date: 3/18/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill seeks approval for state grant approvals for school building projects, a study to examine pyrrhotite in a school foundation, increasing project grant percentages for compliance with an Energy and Environmental Design rating system and permitting towns and board of educations to make purchases with other organizations to save money.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE-LCO NO. 6481:

The original draft of the bill listed school construction projects in Section 1. Section 2 required DAS to conduct a pyrrhotite study of the Birch Grove School in Tolland. Section 3 required the rating system be increased by twenty-five percentage points for project grants that complied with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system. Section 4 added revised language related to new Section 5 and Section 5 allowed for cooperative purchasing plans for school construction projects. The substitute bill struck Sections 2, 3, revisions to 4 and all of new Section 5 of the original bill.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Konstantinos Diamantis, Commissioner of Administrative Services (DAS), supported Section 1 of the bill. DAS opposed Section 2 because they do not have “the expertise or resources to conduct such a technical and comprehensive study.” DAS opposed Section 3 because it

increases the cost of school construction or renovation by creating financial incentives for requirements that are already in place. DAS opposed added language to Section 4 relating to new Section 5 because it would eliminate the transparency and open bidding process.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Kathy K. Shea

Date: 3/27/19