

Judiciary Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7401

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF VICTIM SERVICES.

Vote Date: 4/8/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 4/1/2019

File No.: 707

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

REASONS FOR BILL:

Speaker of the House Joseph Aresimowicz requested this bill.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, CARLETON J. GILES, CHAIRPERSON:

Supports this bill. As a key component of our criminal justice system, the Board recognizes that continued collaboration with Connecticut's victim service providers and advocates is essential to improve upon the way Connecticut notifies, accommodates, and provides services to crime victims. We recommend substitute language which amends this bill for consistency with existing statutes that provide the Board with a representative on other state committees, commissions, work groups and task forces. This proposed amendment provides our agency with the flexibility to choose the most effective representative for this important working group.

STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE, NATASHA M. PIERRE, ESQ.: Feels this bill is not necessary. The OVA appreciates the intent of the bill, however we believe that this type of study was already conducted in 2014-2015. On April 7, 2014, Governor Malloy created the Victims' Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission (VREAC) to examine the status of victims' rights in Connecticut. The membership consisted of all the agencies listed in HB 7401. On November 30, 2015, the VREAC submitted its final report to the Governor, including a number of recommendations to improve the treatment of and delivery of services to crime victims. Many of the recommendations have resulted in legislative or administrative policy change. Many issues still need to be addressed, however, I'm not sure that convening another study will further the efforts.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

CONNECTICUT COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, LIZA ANDREWS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS: Supports this bill. The current working group membership appears to be limited to a variety of government agencies/officials. We think working groups are a great idea that could yield significantly impactful changes to how Connecticut provides services to victims of crime. However, we think it would be a mistake to not include advocates from some of the many community-based victims service organizations serving victims throughout the state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted

Reported by: George Marinelli

May 9, 2015