

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-81

AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS INELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC FUNDS AND

**Title:** LICENSURE.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/5/2019

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

State Senator Matthew Lesser, 9<sup>th</sup> District.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

Certain private occupational schools and for profit institutions of higher education often require students to sign waivers which dismiss students' rights to sue the institutions. This bill requires for-profit institutions and private occupational schools that require students to enter enrollment agreements to include certain additional information in their applications to the Office of Higher Education for state licensure or accreditation. It applies to enrollment agreements that (1) limit participation in a class action against the school, (2) limit any claims or claims for damages against the school, or (3) require claims to be filed in an inconvenient forum.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[State Senator Matthew Lesser, 9<sup>th</sup> District](#): Senator Lesser testified that this was a bi-partisan compromise and that the bill is intended "to maintain basic consumers safeguards for students attending private occupational schools." He went on to say that "This bill would not change existing laws regarding criminal activity or private suits brought under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, but it would withdraw state support for unscrupulous institutions that seek to shield themselves from accountability for their bad acts by including certain terms within their contracts."

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None provided.

**Reported by: Jeanie Phillips, Clerk**

**Date: March 18, 2019**