

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-682

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEE REPORTING OF WASTEFUL

**Title:** PRACTICES.

**Vote Date:** 3/29/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/13/2019

**File No.:**

***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:**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

### **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Sen. Will Haskell, 26th Dist.

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill provides state employees who make a suggestion concerning an alleged gross waste of funds in their employing agency to an award of 5% of the agency's estimated savings (up to \$10,000) after remedying the practice and verification of such savings by the Auditors of Public Accounts. It requires each agency to designate an existing employee to serve as a suggestion coordinator and makes such coordinators and agency or department heads ineligible to participate in the program. The bill also makes numerous rules and exemptions related to administering the program.

**Substitute Language LCO No. 6706-** The Substitute language gives definitions to the terms **State employee, State agency, Gross waste of funds, and Gross mismanagement** in regards to the bill. And describes how the program would work if implemented.

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

**State of Connecticut Judicial Branch:** The Judicial Branch urges the committee to expand on certain sections and parts of language within the proposal to allow the bill to become more translucent and understandable. The Judicial Branch feels a more concrete explanation of the section of the bill discussing "gross waste" and the conditions that would qualify any

waste to fall in the "gross waste" category. The Judicial Branch believes there must be a level of openness concerning what establishes an action as an offense regarding negligence. As well as it relates to management decisions with the use of funds and how the use of those funds can be classified as "gross waste" The Judicial Branch feels these clarifications may avert cases of exploitation on the waste reporting process.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Robert J. Kane & John C. Geragosian – Auditors of Public Accounts:** Kane and Geragosian state the passing of the proposed bill would put a great deal of strain on their office due to the number of complaints and cases that result from false waste reporting. They suggest modifications to the bill that they feel would make the process of reporting waste more manageable and beneficial. These suggestions include setting a minimum level from which an employee can set savings, putting a system in place to review savings and their relation to state saving purchases. Finally, Kane and Geragosian mention an awards program in Sec. 5-263a of the General Statutes dealing with employee savings and feel the awards program may be better suited for this proposal.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Ethan J. Meskill  
Assistant Clerk**

**Date: 4/3/19**