

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-792

AN ACT CREATING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION
Title: THAT OCCURS IN WORKPLACES AND SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

Vote Date: 4/10/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/29/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

According to a survey by GLSEN done in Connecticut regarding LGBTQ school students, 85% heard homophobic remarks towards them and 1 in 5 of LGBTQ students were physically harassed for their gender expression. Since Connecticut updated its anti-discrimination laws to add gender identity and expression in 2011, there are still consistent reports of discrimination based on gender identity. This bill creates an advisory committee that would study to what extent discrimination based on gender identity and expression has in schools and the workplace.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

CT Division of Public Defender Services, Chief Public Defender, Christine Perra Rapillo: Supports bill because this office believes that there should be a “review of the current anti-discrimination laws pertaining to gender identity or expression and a determination as to whether enhancements should be made to the existing statutes to assure equal treatment and safety of this protected class of individuals”.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Sen. Martin Looney: Supports bill because the legislature should “ensure Connecticut’s laws are aligned with our principles of equality and fair opportunity”.

Connecticut Education Association, Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations, Ray Rossomando: Supports bill, but suggests the advisory committee should examine “federal laws germane to K-12 education that may overlap, or be in conflict with, state statutes on gender identity” and include the “CEA as a distinct member of the proposed advisory committee”.

ACLU-CT, Executive Director, David McGuire: Supports bill because “discrimination based on gender identity or expression is a serious and real problem across the nation and in Connecticut” and this committee would “enable our state to ensure people are protected as best they can be from discrimination”.

National Association of Social Workers-CT, submitted by Diversity Committee: Supports bill because many “transgender and gender nonconforming (GNC) individuals living in CT experience discrimination at school and in the workplace, interfering with their ability to gain the full benefits of education and employment” and this bill would help remedy this problem.

CT Women’s Education and Legal Fund, Policy Manager, Madeline Granato: Supports bill because the bill will take anti-discrimination efforts “one step further” and this bill sends “important signals about our state’s values”.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Logan Durant

Date: April 18, 2019