

Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-978

AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Title: CONTRIBUTIONS.

Vote Date: 3/14/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/7/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Insurance Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To exempt certain employees from a mandatory contribution to a health fund they will never use

SUBSTITUE LANGUAGE:

Line 32-33, adds requirements to include those employed by an executive branch agency of state government

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed for S.B. 978

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Francesca Ford, Emmett O'Brien THS, "addresses the inequity in the current policy, in which everyone in my school who is vested will have the same benefit, but one-quarter of the staff will keep paying after everyone else finishes paying. The percentage of State workers in TRB is quite low, but they almost all work in the CT Technical Education and Career System, which plays an important role in Connecticut's educational and economic life"

Sal Luciano, AFL-CIO, "SB 978 exempts CTECS employees who are fully vested in the state retiree health care plan." Believes this change needs to happen legislatively because SEBAC has no standing with TRS.

Ed Leavy, State Vocational Federation of Teachers, “SB 978 exempts the members of the CTECS – the teachers, administrators and consultants – who have completed vesting in the State retiree healthcare system from paying the 1.25% toward TRB Retiree Healthcare. SEBAC has no standing with TRB, so this change must happen legislatively. It is often difficult to have TRB issues even brought up during SEBAC, because only a small percentage of State workers are in TRB. This bill is clearly the right thing to do. On behalf of my 300 plus members and their families who will benefit from this bill, I strongly urge you to pass Bill #978.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, opposes S.B. 978, believes the Teachers’ Retirement System is already underfunded and that passing this bill would set a precedent of exempting individuals from paying into the TRS

Reported by: Sera Vicki

Date: 3/26/19