Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1130
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS INITIATIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.
Vote Date: 5/1/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 4/29/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
In an effort to encourage entrepreneurship in the state this bill makes various changes to UConn’s statutory objectives, governance, faculty, staff, and responsibilities, principally related to entrepreneurship and economic development.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kazem Kazerounian, Dean of Engineering, University of Connecticut
Dean Kazerounian stated that SB 1130 reflects a positive desire to promote economic growth in Connecticut by fostering entrepreneurship. While UConn is committed to increasing innovation and entrepreneurship they however, have significant concerns with the legislation and hope to work with the Committee to develop a bill that meets shared objectives and addresses some of the problematic provisions of SB 1130.
Michael Bailey, Executive Director with the UConn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
Mr. Bailey spoke in opposition to SB 1130 noting that the bill as written completely shifts the object and focus of the university from a space dedicated to educating an informed and engaged citizenry, fostering a critical thinking workforce, and inspiring social and responsible community members to nearly an apprentice school for future entrepreneurs. Furthermore he states that although entrepreneurship is important, to make UConn’s sole object training future entrepreneurs runs counter to the philosophical mission of universities generally and certainly the University of Connecticut.

Reported by:  Jean Holloway                           Date: 5/8/2019