Bill No.: HB-7311
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSITION SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM.
Vote Date: 3/15/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Appropriations
PH Date: 3/13/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
It establishes a community-based transitional school pilot program. Students will be able to obtain transitional services to acquire the skill sets needed in making the shift from school to work successful.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell, State Department of Education: opposed the bill as the Department does not have the fiscal or staffing capacity to take on this pilot program. The bill as drafted is vague and doesn’t define a “community-based education transition school”, the ages for those who will attend or how the pilot grant will be funded.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Shannon Jacovino, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy for the Arc of Connecticut: Testified in support of the pilot program, it will strengthen the students ability to succeed in adulthood, long term employment, setting priorities, budgeting, achieve maximum self-sufficiency.

Lou Alperowitz, Jo-Ann Flynn and Pamela DonAroma, Damion Williams, Orv C. Karan, Ph.D., all Officers of Futures Inc. and Carlos Rodriguez, an employee of Futures Inc.: Strongly support the bill as their experience has shown that Future’s individualized services impacts lives as much as community-based activities. Their individualized services allow
support for students to live independently, gain employment and improve the quality of their lives. The pilot program would “enable us to demonstrate the efficacy, and long term cost savings benefits of individualized community-based education transition services for such students.”

**Testimony from 5 people who are graduated students, current students and relatives of students at Futures, Inc.:** All strongly support the bill and cited their personal experiences and successes with the program:

- Lennette Baez, current student
- Kelly Flory, graduated student’s mother
- Kim Petit, current student’s aunt
- Matt Piche, graduated student
- A.J. Wallen, current student

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**Reported by:** Kathy K. Shea  
**Date:** 3/28/19