Bill No.: HB-7357
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.
Vote Date: 3/25/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/18/2019
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:
Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
Local municipalities are burdened by underfunded and unfunded mandates, this bill would require SDE to conduct a study on educational mandates.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commissioner, Diana R. Wentzell, State Department of Education (SDE)
Although SDE supports the review of unfunded mandates, at this time they would need more resources and staff to properly conduct this study.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Superintendent, Co-Chair, Matthew Conway, Derby Public Schools, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS):
Superintendent Conway supports a study which would review the potential revision or repeal of education mandates on municipalities.

First Selectman, Michael Criss, Harwinton, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM):
First Selectman Criss supports this bill, but requests amendments. In some municipalities education costs can take up eighty percent of the town budget. Rising education costs and reductions in educational aid have led municipalities to cut services and increase property taxes. CCM requests that the task force be amended to focus on special education mandates regarding the federal standards of burden of proof for municipalities in due process hearings and minimum budget requirement mandates, specifically, how the repealing MBR would
impact school districts. CCM supports reducing MBR costs proportionally when special education students leave the district, requests that they have a greater ability to participate in collective bargaining with teachers considering that they increasingly are paying into teacher’s retirement fund, and would like to see the state laws changed so that town governments can require consolidation of non-instructional services and resources between school districts and their respective municipality.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None.

Reported by:  Colin Carroll                  Date: 3/26/19