Bill No.: SB-917
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS.
Vote Date: 3/6/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/27/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Co-Sponsors

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill strengthens the State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) by expanding the requirements for privatizing state contracted services and subjecting quasi-public agencies to the state’s privatization law.

Substitute Language LCO No. 5551: Section 10(a) was reworded by LCO for statutory consistency.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Josh Geballe, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS): testified against this bill, stating that the SCSB already has a rigorous process in place for awarding state contracts, and that adding more delay and bureaucracy is a disservice to the taxpayers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Sal Luciano, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO: testified in support of this bill, claiming that this bill would strengthen the effectiveness of the SCSB and subject private entities and quasi-public agencies to the same standards as state agencies.
Stephen Anderson, President of the CSEA SEIU: testified in support of the bill, saying that this bill would increase the effectiveness of the SCSB by expanding its authority.

Rick Melita, Travis Woodward and Jan Lawrence, also on behalf of the CSEA SEIU, testified in favor of this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kevin Dillon, Executive Director, Connecticut Airport Authority: testified in opposition to this bill. He stated that this bill would hamper the ability of a quasi-public agency to function cost-effectively.

The University of Connecticut: submitted testimony in opposition to this bill. They state that passage of this bill would hamper the effectiveness of the University and UConn Health to be more competitive.

Heather Gates, President & CEO of Community Health Resources: testified in opposition to this bill. She stated that passage of this bill would end up serving fewer vulnerable people of the state because of higher costs.

Also submitting testimony in opposition to this bill:

- ARI of CT
- Community Solutions
- Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance
- Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers
- Friendship Service Center
- Futures, Inc.
- Gilead Community Services
- Mental Health CT
- Oak Hill
- Reliance Health
- The Arc Connecticut

Reported by: Melissa Russell
Assistant Clerk

Date: 4/10/19