

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5221

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CONNECTICUT.

Vote Date: 3/9/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would allow for a study of public education in Connecticut by professionals in the field.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Subira Gordon, Executive Director, ConnCAN

Subira Gordon offered testimony in support of HB 5221 that would allow for professionals in the education field to come to together to discuss problems with education in the state as well as create solutions.

They do offer a change in the timeline of the legislation stating that May 26, 2020 would be too soon to research, discuss, and create solutions.

Barbara Distinti, Special Education for Kids in Connecticut

Barbara offers support for HB 5221 in the form of 5 points of interest. First, allowing for professionals to communicate with Planning and Placements Teams for children who are transitioning from Birth to Three to special education. Currently those professionals who know students the best are not allowed to advise the teams who are creating that students future educational plan.

Next, they seek to allow parents to communicate with their child's PPT in order to form a more well-rounded knowledge of the child's needs by allowing PPT's to observe students in school.

Then, creating legislation that would create a more accepting environment for special needs students in the Connecticut Technical High School System.

Also, adding disability to the list of protected classes under CT General Statute 10-15c which protects against discrimination in education.

Finally, lowering the age for students with IEPs to begin transition services.

Anne Manusky, First Vice President, Connecticut Republican Assembly

Anne offers testimony in support of HB 5221 and speaks in regard to the use of Common Core curriculum in Connecticut. They wish to see Common Core dismantled and allow for individual school districts to control the curriculum taught throughout the district, as it was before Common Core standards.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Lauren Riley,
Asst. Comm Clerk

Date: March 13, 2020