

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5097

AN ACT INCREASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANDPARENTS AND  
**Title:** OTHER NONPARENT RELATIVES RAISING NEEDY CHILDREN.

**Vote Date:** 3/3/2020

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/18/2020

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill is intended to reduce financial burdens on grandparents and other relatives raising needy children. Most caregivers live in poverty or live at or just above the poverty line, which can cause financial strain and become difficult for caregivers to raise their children. To ensure caregivers can support the needs of their families, financial assistance is provided by the Temporary Family Assistance program (TFA) dependent upon child's age and medical condition.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **AARP of Connecticut**

AARP expressed support to this bill. The organization mentioned that 22% of caregivers live in poverty and 49% live at or above the poverty line. It is necessary that effort is made to reduce the disparity between benefits paid to grandparents and those paid to non-relative foster parents.

### **Connecticut Department of Social Services**

The Connecticut Department of Social Services expressed opposition to this bill. The department mentioned that data based on an SFY 19 study concluded an estimated cost of approximately \$17.6 million as a result of increasing financial assistance under the temporary family assistance program.

**Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity**

The Executive Director expressed support to this bill. He mentioned that he is in support of non-parent caretaker relatives and legal guardian of the child receiving financial assistance.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Sen. Tony Hwang, 28th Assembly District**

The Senator expressed support to this bill. He mentioned that the components of the bill seek to maintain stable conditions among vulnerable children and family.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**Reported by: Shelby Michelle Williams  
Clerk: Gaia McDermott**

**Date: 03/06/2020**