

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5202

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF SHADED AREAS AT NEW

Title: MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS.

Vote Date: 3/10/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/25/2020

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:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

Requires any playgrounds built after the bill effective date to have some sort of shade providing component.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Steven Hernandez; Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity

Supports this legislation and believes that in order to protect the Children on Connecticut we must provide them with shade at parks. A 2019 study showed that heat islands in urban areas are concentrated in the poorest parts of the cities. Providing extra shade canopy is a way to help protect the most underserved and vulnerable of children.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects supports this proposed legislation. They believe that shade represents a crucial safety strategy when designing spaces for children. They also suggest the following language to address the needs of all the stakeholders involved, "The method of shade should be considered and implemented by professionals qualified to do so, understanding specific site conditions."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc

Applauds the efforts of the Committee on legislation such as this. They believe that including shade components should be best practice but if they aren't already included it is more than likely due to costs. This would end up being an unfunded mandate on municipalities.

Betsy Gara; Connecticut Council of Small Towns

The Connecticut Council of small towns respectfully opposes this legislation. While the intention to provide shade is good there is an extra cost associated with this. This bill could also create confusion as to what is considered as "shade providing".

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Opposes this legislation as it would restrict the ability of the municipality to plan and design playgrounds. This mandate is impractical since it potentially limits site location, does not provide a definition for shaded area and does not identify who is responsible for determining if a municipality has met the criteria.

Reported by: Peter Murszewski

Date: 3/24/2020