

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-192

AN ACT CONCERNING A LIST OF THE ONE HUNDRED MOST DELINQUENT

Title: CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGORS.

Vote Date: 3/5/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/25/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would remove the requirement for the Office of Child Support Services to publish an online list of the One Hundred most Delinquent Child Obligor. This bill is being introduced because it would support fathers and their children by not publicly shaming fathers and encouraging them to be engaged in their child's life in ways the child needs besides those solely of a financial nature. This legislation would also align Connecticut with most states including its neighboring New England states by eliminating this practice.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Deidre Gifford, Commissioner, Department of Social Services, supports this bill for reasons of a legal, financial, strategic and practical nature. She included in her testimony that not many states and not one of Connecticut's neighbors in New England, including N.Y. and N.J. publish the names of delinquent child obligors. Also, the states that do publish this information have criteria which is often more restrictive than the criteria under Connecticut's law.

Susan Hamilton, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection and Ben Daigle, Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Office of Chief Public Defender, support this bill for Connecticut to reflect best practices in collecting child support, strengthening families, and avoiding shaming and stigmatization.

Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, CWCSEO, supports this bill for similar reasons; Connecticut's neighbors do not engage in this practice and the Commission believes that this bill supports the lives of fathers and their children.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

No additional sources of support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No sources of opposition were submitted.

Reported by: Edward Ford

Date: 03/09/2020