

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-932

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ALLIANCE DISTRICT TEACHER LOAN SUBSIDY

**Title:** PROGRAM.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/4/2021

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To establish an Alliance District Teacher Loan Subsidy Program.

## **Substitute Language:**

- Requires CHESLA to maintain one account to cover both program expenditures and losses, rather than two separate ones
- Makes various technical changes

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

### **[Jeanette Weldon, Executive Director, Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority \(CHESLA\):](#)**

Submitted written testimony in support. Ms. Weldon explains there is a large disparity between the percentage of educators (9.6%) and the percentage of students (47%) of color throughout the state. This lack of diversity results in negative outcomes for students. Not only do diverse classrooms improve the performance of students of color, they develop an appreciation for diverse populations overall. This bill helps to address this issue by providing economic incentives to needed teachers in Alliance Districts.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **[Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc. \(CABE\):](#)**

Submitted written testimony in support. CBE says "This is a tool to help our most vulnerable districts attract and retain educators," and "that loan forgiveness programs decrease teacher attrition and attract a more diverse educator workforce."

**Michele Ridolfi O'Neill, Connecticut Education Association:**

Submitted written testimony in support. CEA supports subsidies to provide "tangible incentives for accepting and committing" to positions in alliance districts.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Jeremy Salyer**

**Date: 03/25/2021**