

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1021

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY WORKING

Title: GROUP.

Vote Date: 3/16/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/9/2021

File No.: 252

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

SB 1021 directs the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly, having cognizance over commerce, to appoint and organize a manufacturing technology working group. This group is tasked with working collaboratively to examine Industry 4.0 in the state and produce a comprehensive report, along with a statewide strategic plan for utilizing these technologies within Connecticut's manufacturing community.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

1. **Hisham Alnajjar, Dean, College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture at the University of Hartford:** Submitted written testimony in support of this bill. Mr. Alnajjar conveyed his opinion that the coordinated and prioritized efforts outlined in this bill, in the form of a formal working group, would benefit Connecticut's workforce. He notes that synergy between the region's manufacturing industries is both powerful and necessary.
2. **Eric Brown, Vice President, The Connecticut Business and Industry Association:** Provided both written and public hearing testimony in support of this bill. Mr. Brown noted he also works closely with the Connecticut Manufacturers Coalition. He stressed

that manufacturers and the state themselves currently do not have a system to address meeting the challenge of Industry 4.0. For Mr. Brown, that is why forming a working group, proposed by this bill, of key stakeholders is a vital component of coming up with a statewide plan regarding Industry 4.0.

3. **Kathy Saint, President & CEO, Schwerdtle Inc:** Provided public hearing testimony in support of this bill. Ms. Saint notes this bill is the next logical step in breaking up communication barriers between different organizations, each with valuable insight. She testified that it is challenging to stay up on the latest advances in technology as a small manufacturer. She expects that the information collected and eventually disseminated by this working group will be valuable, particularly for small manufacturers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Peter B. Andrews

Date: 3-17-21