

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1073

AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN STATE

Title: GOVERNMENT.

Vote Date: 3/31/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/24/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would require a study of state agency policies and programs to assess the equity of state government programs and the allocation of state resources. It requires agencies to assess equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability. This bill would help ensure that underserved communities are able to access state services and programs.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, State of Connecticut: The CHRO testified that while the State of Connecticut offers many programs and services to its residents, it needs to assess whether there are barriers that make it difficult for some groups to access said services. They explain that these possible barriers need to be addressed and corrected to eliminate the state's history of racism.

Department of Administrative Services: DAS testified that this bill addresses an important issue and is supportive of having state agencies review and assess their programs and policies in order to identify system barriers to accessibility. They suggested that DAS work in coordination with OPM to carry out the study.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Kelly McConney Moore, Interim Senior Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut: Moore testified that marginalized groups such as BIPOC, women and non-

binary people, LGBTQ, and people with disabilities, are often excluded from the protection and services offered by the state. They state that this bill could end the exclusion by requiring study of inequities in state government. They also state that the ideas of the bill could be strengthened by including people living with criminal records as one of the groups whose exclusions is studied.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Jenna Schwerdtle

Date: 03/31/2021