

General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6217

AN ACT INCREASING TRANSPARENCY FOR CHARITABLE

Title: ORGANIZATIONS.

Vote Date: 3/9/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/18/2021

File No.: 133

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

General Law Committee

Co-sponsors:

Rep. Tim Ackert, 8th Dist.

Rep. David Rutigliano, 123rd Dist

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will require that charitable organizations put their registration number on written solicitations so that it can be seen. It would also require that upon request the organization give the percentage of what they are collecting goes directly to the purpose of the charity it is funding. This will make transparency more available to those contributing to charitable organizations.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Jeff Shaw, Sr. Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance)

This bill is opposed due to the overly burdensome requirements. The Alliance is a statewide advocacy organization representing non-profits. There are numerous reporting and

compliance requirements for nonprofits. If someone wants the charitable registration number of a nonprofit, they can call the organization and ask for it, as it would be available. In addition, most nonprofits, while not required by law, produce "Annual Reports," featuring organizational highlights, an overview of services, program outcomes, community impact, leadership structure, and statement of financial position and results. To ensure trust in nonprofits, The Alliance does support reasonable and non-burdensome regulations and policies.

Kathleen Flaherty, Executive Director, CT Legal Rights Project, Inc.

The CT Legal Rights Project opposes this bill. Upon request the CLRP will supply its registration number; but adding it to advertisements will not add anything to transparency. People can find out information about CLRP from the website where the annual reports and form 990 is available. As executive director of The CLRP for 5+ years no one has ever asked for registration number.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk

Date: 03/10/2021