

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5266

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT WORK RELEASE POLICIES.

Vote Date: 3/17/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/1/2022

File No.: 230

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would require the Commissioner of Education to evaluate school districts student work release policies, to develop a model policy and provide guidance to boards of education regarding this policy and finally, require local and regional boards of education to adopt a student work release policy. The Commissioner is directed to report to the committee of cognizance no later than January 1, 2023.

The JFS language eliminates section (d) of the bill that requires a mandate that would require school districts to adopt a student work release program.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Mr. Ray Rossomando, Director of Policy, Research and Government Relations, Connecticut Education Association: They support the intent of this bill but caution the committee to ensure that student work release programs do not become a pathway for students to circumvent high school completion.

Ms. Ashley Zane, Government Affairs Associate, Connecticut Business and Industry Association: They offer testimony in support of this legislation believing it would create clarity and transparency for all districts and provide needed guidance on how to allow students to gain practical experience in a nontraditional setting. All students do not learn the same way and are not on the same educational track. These programs allow for earlier

exposure to careers at a younger age combined with on-the-job training and this is what some students need to begin their careers after high school graduation. A student release program gives students the opportunity to see if a career pathway is something in which they are interested.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk

Date: 3/31/22