

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-473

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD.

**Vote Date:** 3/28/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/25/2022

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill is focused on making changes to current provision concerning the State Contracting Standards Board. These changes would cover items such as the board's ability to oversee quasi-public agency procurements as well as municipal procurements, letting the board hire and retain full time staff, and stopping the Governor from being able to reduce selections and funding to the board.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Andrea Barton Reeves, CEO of Connecticut Paid Leave:** Writes in opposition to the bill. Says that the bill would create too much of an oversight burden on quasi-public agencies such as itself. Says that the current build of these agencies has sufficient oversight and that expanding the Boards reach to these agencies will impair their ability to succeed in their statutory missions.

**Larry Fox, Chair of State Contracting Standards Board:** Writes in support of this bill. Says that with increased resources they would be able to expand their mission and make the current procurement system more open and fairer to Connecticut taxpayers.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**The New England Healthcare Employees Union:** Writes in support of this bill. States that the State Contracting Standards Board has an important role in state contracting and this legislation will help with oversight of this process.

**Walt Cipinski**: Writes in support of this bill on the grounds it help insure fairness among the business community.

**Ed Hawthorne, President of CT AFL-CIO**: Writes in support of this bill. Says Connecticut needs strong oversight and strengthening this bill goes a long way to support that.

**Jane Wilson, Avon CT**: Writes in support of this bill. Says it raises the standards of Connecticut contracting policies.

**Travis Woodward, President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001**: Supports this bill saying that the oversight will help create fairer practices and contracting in the state of Connecticut.

**Stacey Zimmerman, Service Employees International Union Connecticut State Council**: Writes in support of this bill. Says that creating protections to the board will help create better and fairer procurement practices and oversight in the state.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**David Godbout**: Writes in opposition on the grounds that it is unconstitutional for the legislature to pass laws.

**Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**: Writes in opposition to this legislation. Say that the bill is an overreach and intrusion into local governments authority and ability to run and award grants. Says that a uniform procurement process does not work across so many individual towns and governments.

**Christopher Davis, Connecticut Lottery Corporation**: Writes in opposition to this bill. Says that the one size fits all nature of this legislation would only serve to harm their organization as well as others.

**Kevin Dillon, Executive Director at the Connecticut Airport Authority**: Writes in opposition to this bill. Says that this bill would override their procurement authority and impede upon their process in order to set up a uniformed state procurement process. They say this would hurt their mission and hurt Connecticut's airport potential.

**Betsy Gara, Connecticut Council of Small Towns**: Writes in opposition to this bill. While they support efforts to build transparency and competition, they say this bill would impede municipality's ability to get the best contract for them by trying to use a one size fits all approach.

**CT Green Bank**: Writes in opposition to this bill. Says that this bill would hurt their organization's ability to leverage funding and trust with public partners and would impede upon their processes.

**Matt McCooe, CEO Connecticut Innovations**: Writes in opposition to this bill. Says they are concerned that this bill would hamper their ability to operate effectively by hurting their flexibility.

**Access Health CT:** Writes in opposition to this bill. Says that it would impose inefficient regulatory oversight of their procurement actions and therefore impede their ability to operate in the best interests of all stakeholders.

**Connecticut Housing Finance Authority:** Writes in opposition of this bill. Says that the procedures they would be subject to would negatively affect their ability to operate efficiently.

**Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority:** Write in opposition to this bill. Say that the legislation would impede their operations and say they urge rejection of the bill or an amendment to the language that exempt quasi-public agencies that do not rely tax-payer dollars to fund their operations.

**Reported by: Will Ginn**

**Date: 3-28-22**