

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6642

AN ACT CONCERNING A TITLE IX COMPLIANCE TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOL

Title: DISTRICTS.

Vote Date: 2/28/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/16/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children.

COSPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Kate Farrar, 20th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to develop a federal Title IX compliance toolkit to help school districts better implement these polices into the identification, prevention, and response to adult sexual abuse.

Often schools throughout our state have mentioned the difficulty in relaying and properly teaching students and staff the regulations and policies of the Title IX. Title IX is crucial in developing a safe and secure environment for students to learn to their full potential. This bill will identify and develop a toolkit that will better help to serve schools in educating their students and staff. Sexual abuse and gender discrimination occur far mor often then is expected and this toolkit will help to create a system that can more accurately deal with these issues that many of our schools deal with.

The substitute language introduces a working group to help identify and develop the Title IX compliance toolkit., and creates a timeline of no later than July, 2024 should the Department of Education distribute these toolkits.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

CEA, President, Kate Dias, supports this bill if teachers, Connecticut Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Connecticut Chapter, are included in the work group included in this bill. HB-6642 is an important tool that goes a long way in assisting teachers.

Office of the Child Advocate, Acting Child Advocate, Sarah Healy Eagan, supports this bill that will help to address and equally prevent sexual abuse of children within child-serving programs. Comprehensive technical assistance to addressing Title IX compliance is imperative to helping school districts better guide their staff.

Connecticut General Assembly, House of Representatives, Representative Kate Farrar, supports this bill and its important role in prohibiting sex discrimination in schools that receive federal funding. However, they suggest including those with expertise of K-12, STEM education, student parents in the working group.

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Executive Director, Bethany Hamilton, supports this bill and its work towards using Title IX policies as a source of ability to combat sexual violence. (1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience sexual abuse at some point in their childhood). They recommend the toolkit also address sexual harassment from fellow students, they also suggest using the Biden administration's new Title IX regulations when developing the toolkit for our schools.

The Children's Center of Hamden, Sarah Lockery, supports this bill and its educating effects it can have on schools. They remind how apparent sexual abuse is, and how many children never report it. They suggest referencing the PREA regulations as a guide. They remind how important it is to education not only children but the staff.

Connecticut Association of Boards and Education, Inc., Government Relations, Sheila McKay, supports this bill and suggests an addition of a CABE member to the working group mentioned in the bill. They understand Title IX can be complex and welcome the ability to provide further clarity.

Student at Wesleyan University, Asija Qyteza, supports this bill and advocates for the strong need of the student population for additional support regarding Title IX policies and services. She adds this bill will positively affect thousands of students across the state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/9/23