

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6755

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

Title: CENTER ADVISORY GROUP.

Vote Date: 3/14/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/2/2023

File No.: 314

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

[Rep. Christopher Poulos, 81st Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut's manufacturing sector has grown substantially in recent years, however, the workforce has not. With the addition of an advanced manufacturing technology center, the manufacturing sector will enjoy educational, economic, and workforce benefits. As a result, more open jobs can be filled within the manufacturing industry in both the short and long term.

Substitute Language: LCO 6007

Changed "The executive" to "An executive" for internal consistency in Subsec. (b)(1).

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Garrett Sheehan President & CEO, Greater New Haven & Quinnipiac Chambers of Commerce – Supports

Acknowledges the need to continue to address the workforce shortage in the manufacturing field. Citing various state industry training and talent pipelines, he believes further support from the state will strengthen these concentrated efforts.

Eric J. Brown – Untitled – Supports

Cites many existing goals of the Next Manufacturing Center to help train and enhance Ct's training in Manufacturing and Industry. He provides the pieces for this Center already exist in the state (ie. F.A.M.E, eager employers, current curriculum...) and just needs focus and determination to begin using the existing 44,000 sq.ft Advanced Manufacturing Center at Tunxis Community College. An overall organizing body provided in this bill would help streamline this process and bring the Center closer to realization.

Kathy Saint - President of Schwerdtle Inc. and member of the CMC and Manufacture CT – Supports

Cites other National programs as examples of furtherance of the success of implementing the existing i4.0 plan. She highlights the known importance of training workers to help local business compete nationally and globally through a strong factory floor workforce skilled in Mechatronics.

Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch State Director, Connecticut College of Technology, Executive Director & Principal Investigator, National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing – Supports

States this is important legislation to help the already existing programs. The state helping various technological programs meet the employment needs of the growing technological workforce enhancing the already existing programs throughout the state will enhance the programs outcomes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chief Workforce Officer Office of Workforce Strategy Opposes
Dr. Vallieres believes much of this bill would be creating duplicative efforts already enacted by the CTECS Advisory Board through an already existing model with the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI).

Reported by: Colin DeCure

Date: 3/31/2023