

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6757

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS.

Vote Date: 3/24/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/1/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill introduces changes to the teacher evaluation scale, as the current system focuses more on numerical ratings rather than helpful feedback which allows teachers to understand their areas of improvement. If implemented, these new changes within the teacher evaluation systems will foster professional growth and allow for teachers to become better for the students of Connecticut.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language specifies that the State Board of Education adopts a new model teacher evaluation program that districts may use. It also calls for SBE to adopt new evaluation guidelines in line with those outlined in the bill and additionally includes a required annual summary of teacher growth in these guidelines.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

State Department of Education, Commissioner, Charlene Russell-Tucker: supports this bill stating that the organization looks forward to participate in conversations with both the Educator Evaluation and Support Council and the legislature to reach consensus on the appropriate path forward for teacher performance evaluations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Hebron Public Schools, Superintendent, Thomas Baird: supports this bill stating this legislation will cause a shift towards research-based practices to support educator growth,

while also eliminating the needless and unsupported practices that exist within the current evaluation system.

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), President, Liz Brown: supports this bill stating that it enforces the need to emphasize the support guidance available to teachers to improve classroom instruction, as CABE wants additional supports to be easy to access and easy to tailor to the teacher in need.

Connecticut Education Association (CEA), Executive Director, Don Williams: supports this bill stating it will improve teacher evaluations by making them more useful, productive, and supportive.

Connecticut Education Association (CEA), Teacher Development Specialist, Kate Field: supports this bill stating from personal experience as an educator the historical evaluation scale was problematic and unhelpful in many ways, but this bill introduces a better scale which focuses on professional growth, meaningful dialogue, and helpful feedback instead of ratings.

Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), Executive Director, Fran Rabinowitz: supports this bill with modifications. He states that the current evaluation system needs to be modified and provides a seven-step plan by which the organizations believe teacher evaluations should follow.

AFT Connecticut, Vice President; Norwalk Federation of Teachers, President, Mary Yordon: supports this bill stating that the organizations support the elimination of the requirement of a four-level matrix for a summative rating, as the evaluation should more focused on high-quality feedback that leads to understanding of areas of improvement.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

ConnCAN, Executive Director, Subira Gordon: opposes this bill stating that Connecticut must maintain its current statutes on teacher evaluation to serve as a backstop for quality control.

Educators for Excellence, Executive Director, Daniel Pearson: opposes this bill stating that the current teacher evaluation system provides essential information about the performance of our teachers, and this bill threatens to decrease both the access to that information and the positive outcomes of the evaluation process.

Nicholas Coppola: opposes this bill stating that teacher evaluations should be done at the local level, not at the state level. He states that this bill leaves little room for districts to operate and innovate on their own.

Reported by: Riley St. Pierre

Date: 3/27/2023