

General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-135

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MAXIMUM CHARGE FOR CERTAIN
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, CERTIFICATIONS, PERMITS AND

Title: REGISTRATIONS.

Vote Date: 3/2/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/7/2023

File No.: 95

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

General Law Committee

[Sen. Ryan Fazio, 36th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would reduce and cap the cost of certain licensing fees that are charged in Connecticut. The cost to be licensed for many in Connecticut can be a barrier to pursuing jobs that will reduce poverty and give the opportunity for many to obtain higher paying jobs.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Judicial Branch, External Affairs Division, State of Connecticut

The Judicial Branch has concerns with this bill. This bill proposes to regulate the issuance of occupational licenses. This bill would include a law license. The Judicial Branch is the sole authority over the practice of law in Connecticut and sets the qualifications and requirements for a law license.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Bryce Chinault, Director of External Affairs, Yankee Institute

Mr. Chinault writes in support of this bill. This bill would cap the fee that can be charged to receive an occupational license at \$100.00. This bill would reduce the economic barriers to obtaining a license, provides clarity and limits fees to increase in the future. This is a documented problem in Connecticut.

Andrew Frank, President and Co-Founder, Sealed

Sealed would like to take the opportunity to offer support for an additional policy proposal with the goal of removing barriers to licensing for heat pump installations. By establishing a heat pump installers license, Connecticut's climate goals would be supported, employee retention for pump installers would be increased by removing fossil fuel OJT and improve levels of worker experience in installing heat pumps, and this would provide equity benefits by making licensing more affordable and training more streamlined.

Ron Kamen, Principal, EarthKind Energy Consulting

Mr. Kamen writes in support of this bill. He would like to take the opportunity to support establishing a heat pump installers license, as it would remove the fossil fuel portion of training for this license. This would help in retention of the technicians or apprentices who are trained or being trained on heat pump installations. The Examining Board should consider if training requirements could be streamlined to save tuition and time, without sacrificing quality.

Doug Presley, Policy Manager, Dandelion Energy

Mr. Presley would like to make a proposal regarding this bill. He feels that a license for heat pump installations that does not require fossil fuel system experience, would be beneficial and would continue to protect the consumer. It would also provide equity benefits by making licensing more affordable and accessible.

Robin LeBaron, Co-Founder and President, Pearl Certification

Mr. LeBaron supports this bill with an amendment to that would remove barriers to occupational licensing for heat pump installation without sacrificing consumer protection. Current HVAC licensing requirements are that there is training in fossil fuel OJT. Often apprentices leave their position installing heat pumps in order to get training in the fossil fuel requirement. Heat pumps operate without fossil fuels.

Jim Perras, CEO, Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut, Inc.

Mr. Perras supports this bill with amendments. HBRA-CT supports any effort to reduce the regulatory costs and burdens for those who engage in residential construction. HBRA-CT would like registration of New Home Contractors also be included in SB135.

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

Mr. Sheehan supports this bill. This bill would reduce the amount charged for certain occupational licensing; this would assist those who cannot afford the current fee. These efforts would make entering the workforce more accessible and help the workforce shortages.

Edward Timmons, Director, Knee Center for the Study of Occupational Regulation, West Virginia University, Senior Research Fellow, Archbridge Institute

Mr. Timmons supports this bill. Connecticut's current licensing requirements and fees make it more difficult for aspiring workers to begin working, additional licensing requirements limiting economic mobility by 4.6% and increased income inequality by 10.7%.

Ashley Zane, Government Affairs Associate, CBIA

Ms. Zane supports this bill. According to a study conducted in November 2022, Connecticut is higher than the national average for fees totaling \$290.00. According to AdvanceCT, the cost of licensing in the state costs Connecticut 48,000 full time jobs and shrinks the economy by \$400 million. The fees are a barrier to entry for many individuals looking to raise themselves out of poverty.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Mariella LaRosa, Chief Executive Officer, HAVEN

Ms. LaRosa opposes this bill, as she is concerned the funding that is provided through licensing fees for HAVEN might be impacted. She would like to ensure that the revenues for HAVEN will not be compromised. HAVEN is funded, in part by a \$5.00 annual fee on license renewals for healthcare professionals. Loss of the licensing fee revenues would be devastating to HAVEN.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Assistant Clerk

Date: 3/2/2023