

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-955

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ANATOMICAL GIFTS.

Vote Date: 3/10/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/22/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill requires hospitals to report when an anatomical gift is revoked or amended. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to evaluate information focused on motorcycle accidents and the associated frequency of accidents compared to automobiles, the percentage of motorcyclists involved in accidents that are organ or tissue donors and the number of anatomical gifts made by victims of motorcycle accidents. The intent of the bill is to increase access to organs and tissue for transplantation.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Martin Looney, President Pro Tem, State Senate, CT General Assembly:

Sen Looney supports this bill, stating that it is good policy to increase reporting requirements regarding organ and tissue donation. He believes a study of motorcycle deaths and the relationship to organ donation will help improve access to transplantation as well as influence future policy around helmet requirements.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Alexandra Glazier, President and CEO, New England Donor Services (NEDS):

NEDS supports the concept of not allowing revocation of anatomical gifts after a person's death. In her testimony Ms. Glazier suggests language clarifying a person's rights regarding organ donation making sure any lay person is able to understand. The reason for Section 2, regarding gathering information on motorcycle deaths, is unclear. NEDS would be willing to work with the proponents to help clarify the purpose.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA):

CHA is concerned that there is no clear objective for collecting the data in Section 1 and would be overly burdensome on hospital caregivers. While supporting efforts to promote organ and tissue donation, CHA does not see how collecting this data will increase the number of organs available for donation and CHA will not support this bill.

Reported by: David Rackliffe

3/26/2023