

Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1080

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH

Title: INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/17/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/27/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Transportation Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill is intended to provide better transportation services to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities by expanding for these individuals and reducing the fees that they must pay to either a discounted amount or free altogether.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner, CT Department of Transportation

Testified that many of the goals that this bill is trying to accomplish have already been implemented in the state. Comments that certain sections of the bill would require a financial impact analysis to determine revenue loss to the system and a plan to fill the gap in funding created by discounted or free programs.

Tony Guerrero, Commissioner, CT Department of Motor Vehicles

Testified that the department believes that the goals of the proponents of this bill are currently being met and that the programs that the bill wishes to provide are already run smoothly by the DMV. Comments that they welcome feedback as to how to best utilize these services.

Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services

Testified that providing a variety of transportation options for disabled individuals is a top priority for DDS, but that this bill would cause concerns regarding confidentiality, potential HIPAA violations, and discrimination towards individuals with intellectual disabilities, and that they are unable to support this bill as written.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Carol Scully, Director of Advocacy, The Arc of Connecticut Inc

Supports this bill because it would help address the needs of those living in a transportation "desert" where there are not many options available for public transportation. Comments that it addresses the need for overall expansion of free or low-cost transportation options.

Julia Wilcox, Senior Public Policy Advisor, CT Community Nonprofit Alliance

Supports this bill because it would increase transportation services for individuals with disabilities. Comments that the bill helps address the need for access and reduced expense for disabled individuals to maintain their independence.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Joseph Comerford, Executive Director, Estuary Transit District

Opposes this bill because it would create a reduction in funding for providing a service because the bill has no funding attached, thus ultimately harming the people it is trying to help. Comments that they support section 2 which studies how to improve public transportation services for individuals with disabilities.

Reported by: Gabriel Marques

Date: 4/4/2023