

Appropriations Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5049
AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
Title: ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.
Vote Date: 4/4/2024
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/22/2024
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Governor Lamont

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill authorizes funds for several state agencies to allow them to cover shortfalls in the current fiscal year. Since it is difficult to anticipate extraordinary circumstances that may place additional demands on agencies (court orders, increased caseloads, public health concerns, etc.), deficiency appropriations are necessary in order for agencies to meet their fiscal obligations.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Jeffrey Beckham, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management](#) – Secretary Beckham offered testimony in support of the bill. He stated that the legislation makes deficiency appropriations which, in combination with Finance Advisory Committee transfers and adjustment of holdbacks, would fully address any shortfalls for FY 2024 projected by the Office of Policy and Management. Further, he stated his commitment to work with OFA and the Appropriations Committee Co-Chairs to adjust the deficiency bill to reflect updated estimates as the fiscal year progresses.

The following agency representatives offered explanations of their agency's projected deficiencies:

[Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller](#)
[Dr. Ellen Solek, Executive Director, CT Technical Education and Career System](#)
[Michelle Gilman, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services](#)

[Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#)
[John Russotto, Deputy Chief State's Attorney](#)
[Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner, Department of Social Services](#)
[Angel Quiros, Commissioner, Department of Correction](#)
[Brian Hill, Executive Director, Administrative Services Division, Judicial Department](#)

[Colleen Murphy, Executive Director, Freedom of Information Commission](#) – Ms. Murphy spoke in opposition to Section 2, lines T39-40, which proposes to reduce the FY 24 appropriation to FOIC by \$300,000. Ms. Murphy explained that the Commission will not have that amount, which represents close to 15% of the Commission's entire budget, at the end of the current fiscal year to help satisfy other agency deficiencies. As the Commission is in the process of hiring for the two new positions authorized in the adopted budget, her agency needs Personal Services funding to remain intact.

[Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director, Office of State Ethics](#) – Mr. Lewandowski testified in opposition to lines T36-37 in Section 2 of the bill. He stated that taking \$100,000 from the agency's FY 24 appropriation would place OSE in deficiency.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Lisa Hammersley, Executive Director, State and School Finance Project](#) – Ms. Hammersley requested that the bill be amended to increase the FY 24 Vocational Agriculture appropriation in the State Department of Education to fully fund the per-pupil grant for students who attend agricultural science and technology education programs. She explained that when the General Assembly enacted the FY 24-25 biennial budget, the intent was to fully fund the state grant at \$5,200 per pupil. However, it came to light last fall that the State's per-pupil support was reduced below the \$5,200 statutory grant due to an increase in enrollment that was beyond what the appropriation could support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Martha Page](#) – Ms. Page submitted testimony in opposition to the bill, writing that "agencies should be solvent and not in a default".

Reported by: Susan Keane

Date: April 9, 2024