

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5295

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/5/2024

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill was requested so the needs of senior citizens in our state can be studied and to make sure there are adequate resources allocated to satisfy their needs.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Aging Policy Analyst:** They are in **support** of this legislation, but point out that any study with such a large scope might require an appropriation and a longer timeline to cover the issue. If the bill is passed the commission may ask for funds to pay for a fellowship from Connecticut-based institution to assist them with the work.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Representative Al Paolillo, 97<sup>th</sup> District:** His written testimony indicated his **support** for this bill. He would suggest including language that would include a blanket 'no shut off' of winter moratorium when it comes to utility bills for all seniors.

**LeadingAge Connecticut; Ms. Mag Morelli, President:** They **support** this bill and offer to assist the Committee and the state with this study.

**The Arc of Connecticut, Inc., Ms. Carol Scully, Director of Advocacy:** They **support** this bill and recommend that language specific to persons with disabilities including intellectual, cognitive and physical be included in the text of the bill. They are the oldest and the largest

community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

**CT Statewide Family Council, Mr. Frederic Kaeser, Vice Chairperson:** They **support** this bill to study the needs of senior citizens.

**Ms. Elizabeth Stern, Family Caregiver:** She **supports** this bill to study the needs of senior citizens.

**Ms. Jessica Hill:** She **supports** this proposal. Her testimony shared her own personal experience and thoughts about the issue.

**Ms. Irma Rappaport, National Advocate:** She believes that the state is leading the way with improving the lives of seniors. The number of seniors is expanding in the coming decades and the bills being raised are proactive, compassionate and important.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None submitted.

**Reported by:**  
**Toni Lombardi, Clerk**  
**Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk**

**Date: 3/14/24**