

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5313

AN ACT REESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND

Title: INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE.

Vote Date: 3/22/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration & Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would reestablish the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee to review existing legislation and recommend legislative policy changes to the General Assembly as a whole.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Lee Ross, Deputy Director, Judicial Branch External Affairs: Presents general comments that the bill should be changed to remove language suggesting that the Judicial Review Council must disclose complaints received to the PRI. States that this language would allow the PRI to interfere with the disciplining of judges, which is already covered in the state constitution as the General Assembly can impeach a judge with a two-thirds majority, and the governor may remove them upon impeachment.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Vincent Candelora, House Republican Leader, House Republican Caucus: Supports this bill because it would reestablish a great resource in the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee. States that this committee served a vital role in providing fair and bipartisan recommendations for legislation to the full legislature that would benefit the people of Connecticut. Also states that the committee would be well-equipped to ensure that study groups and work groups are running smoothly and fulfilling their expected goals.

Wyatt Bosworth, Associate Counsel, CBIA: Supports this bill because it would restore a useful committee that audited state agencies for performance and efficiency and sometimes recommended changes to improve state programs. States that a committee like this is needed in the current fiscal situation to ensure that agencies are run-well and are protecting taxpayer dollars.

Ben Shaiken, Director of Government Relations, CT Community Nonprofits Alliance: Supports this bill because nonprofits would greatly benefit from the reestablishment of the legislative program and review committee as the committee would provide much needed oversight and accountability to the interactions between nonprofits and the State.

John Filchak, Executive Director, NECCOG: Supports this bill because it corrects a mistake made in 2016 that eliminated the valuable Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee. States that this committee would fill a research gap in Connecticut related to the research of public policy, which is something that many states currently have built into their government. Also states that bipartisan policy research is important to ensure better policy decisions in the legislature.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No sources of opposition were provided.

Reported by: Gabriel Marques, Assistant Clerk Date: 4/2/2024