

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5503

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF WORKFORCE SHORTAGES,
Title: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING AVAILABILITY.

Vote Date: 3/21/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/19/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

REP. SIMMS

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB-5503 proposes a study to examine workforce shortages, workforce development, and training availability in the state. By conducting such a study, policymakers can gain valuable insights into the challenges facing Connecticut's workforce and identify opportunities. As Connecticut navigates the complexities of workforce shortages and seeks to bolster workforce development and training initiatives, a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape is essential.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Keefe, Dan, Commissioner designate-DECD-Opposes

Mr. O'Keefe opposes HB-5503 because it would require DECD to conduct a series of studies on manufacturing issues, programs administered by DECD, and workforce related issues. While we understand the intent of these bills, we do not have the resources to undertake additional mandates including studies.

Vallieres, Kelli-Marie, Chief Workforce Officer-Office of Workforce Strategy-Opposes

Ms. Vallieres opposes HB-5503 because given the extensive nature of work that OWS has undertaken to study workforce in the state, we strongly do not believe that an additional study is necessary. OWS welcomes collaboration with the Commerce Committee and other stakeholders to help develop this legislation in such a way that enriches existing efforts and is not duplicative of existing work.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Anonymous, Anonymous-Connecticut Hospital Association-Supports

This person supports HB-5503 because would require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to conduct a study on workforce shortages, workforce development, and training availability. CHA encourages the Committee to specify that the development of the healthcare workforce be the specific focus of the study.

HB-05503 Dehkan, Aziz, Executive Director-CRCJ-Supports

Mr. Aziz supports HB-5503 because it would require DECD to study workforce shortages, workforce development, and training availability

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Torres, Rashawn, more jobs for Latinos-Opposes

Mr. Torres opposes HB-5503 because there isn't enough job representation for Latinos in Connecticut. Mr. Torres believes that the bill should make It mandatory that every agency has a Latino affairs liaison as well.

Reported by: Hassan Ismail

04/02/2024