

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-109

AN ACT MODIFYING THE CONNECTICUT AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS

**Title:** PROGRAM.

**Vote Date:** 2/29/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/22/2024

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would modify the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program to start using Grade Point Average to determine eligibility instead of class rank. The bill makes high school counselors determine eligibility for every high school senior, for each partner college, and write letters of acceptance on top of marketing the program as well. This modification would make the program easier to implement because high schools already prefer using Grade Point Average as a metric for success instead of class rank.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, Chancellor, Terrence Cheng](#): supports this bill stating that the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program has been a great success for graduating high school seniors. It was stated that this year, Connecticut State Colleges, and Universities has seen a nearly 70% increase in Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program applicants and an increase in the total number of applicants to Connecticut State Colleges and Universities schools of 400%. Modifying this program to focus on students unweighted G.P.A. would make the program more transparent, verifiable, and easy to implement.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, President, Jennifer Widness](#): support this bill stating that they understand that, according to school counselors they have talked with, high schools have transitioned from using class rank as a metric for success to using GPA. It

states that in the inaugural year for this program, five of their institutions already were using GPA to determine eligibility.

[Student, J'Waka Steele](#): supports this bill stating that as a student this is helpful when looking to possibly attend schools in Connecticut.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Patrick Buckley**

**Date: 3/7/2024**