

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-153

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL
Title: EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM.

Vote Date: 3/6/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Appropriations

PH Date: 2/21/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was filed in response to recommendations made by the Technical Education and Career System. The first few sections make technical revisions, replacing obsolete terms and agencies with updated, accurate language. The latter sections of this bill require CTECS to provide transition programs to special education students within their schools, in order to ensure that these students have the resources they need to succeed following their graduation. This was not the case before.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language for this bill makes three adjustments. First, it removes provisions requiring local Boards of Education to provide specified services to CTECS students who require special education, meaning that municipalities will not be required to cover costs of transition services for special education students attending CTECS schools. Secondly, it adds language which requires CTECS to provide these transition services themselves. Finally, it adds language on RESCs spending funds in accordance with CTECS directives. This substitute language will alleviate many concerns brought forth by municipalities and their representatives, removing the burden of supporting special education services for CTECS students from their home school district.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, Executive Director, Dr. Ellen Solek](#); supports this bill in its current form and thanks the committee for raising it. They state

that Sec. 1 - 3 modernize antiquated terms in statute which will create consistency in language between agencies. Furthermore, they state that Sec. 4 will streamline the process for CTECS to contract with state RESCS, allowing CTECS to provide services to students with disabilities more quickly. Finally, they express support for Sec. 5 - 7, stating that the language clarifies the scope of CTECS' programs, thus reducing the possibility of litigation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[State Federation of Vocational Teachers, President, Paul Angelucci](#); supports this bill stating that it will streamline some of the red tape that exists in the operation of vocational schools. They state that passing this bill will have a direct and immediate impact on the quality of education students in trade schools receive.

[Ledyard High School, 10th Grade Student, Ariana Gutierrez-Duran](#); expresses support for this bill, stating that this bill will provide greater career development opportunities for youth, better preparing them to enter the workforce successfully.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Bethel Public Schools, Superintendent, Dr. Christine Carver](#); expresses strong opposition to lines 107-115 of this bill, which deal with providing transition services to students with disabilities. They state that this language will allow vocational schools to develop an IEP for these students on their own and will charge the sending district for transition services. They state that this places an undue financial burden on the sending school districts in this scenario. ** The substitute language for this bill addresses these concerns.**

[Connecticut Association of Board of Education, Executive Director, Patrice McCarthy](#); expresses concern with Sec. 7 of this bill, in particular lines 107-115. They state that this language places an unreasonable burden on local board of Education, as the responsibility of a Board to a special education student ends at graduation, especially considering that the Special Education Excess Cost Grant is underfunded by approximately \$70 million. ** The substitute language for this bill addresses these concerns.**

[Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Advocacy Manager, Lindsay Seti](#); expresses concern with Sec. 7 of this bill, stating that this section does not give municipalities the ability to plan ahead for students with special needs placed from the CTEC System. They state that towns and cities are responsible for covering the costs of special education services, and the addition of students without notice can have adverse impacts on their budgets. ** The substitute language for this bill addresses these concerns.**

Reported by: Benjamin Lee

Date: 3/26/24