

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-407

AN ACT GRANTING VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS ACCESS TO

Title: WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

Vote Date: 3/21/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/12/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to provide Vocational Agricultural (VoAg) students with access to workers' compensation, akin to how vocational technical students receive such access. This would ensure that such students are protected when performing potentially dangerous hands-on work.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Cathy Osten, State Senator, CT General Assembly: testified in support of this bill and stated that the ability for VoAg students to access workers' compensation will help protect them in their hands-on work. She also stated that this change will encourage enrollment in VoAg programs, and by extension expand agriculture in the state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Brooke Foley, Counsel, Insurance Association of CT: testified in opposition to this bill on the grounds that it represents an expansion of the Workers' Compensation system, which will burden employers. She stated that this expansion is unnecessary, as students would be covered by their parents' health insurance, and may already be covered, depending on the nature of their employment.

Pete Myers, Public Policy Associate, CBIA: testified in opposition to this bill, on the grounds that it could raise costs for employers, and that this expansion is both inappropriate and unnecessary.

Dr. Linda Delassio: testified in general opposition to this bill, on the grounds that students are not employed.

Reported by: Cameron Clarke

Date: 04/05/2024