

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6956

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.

Vote Date: 3/6/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to update the formula for funding allocation regarding disadvantaged youth programs. This would ensure that the programs can target areas most affected by youth disengagement.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner of Department of Labor: Supports the bill, would move from fixed percentages to a U.S. Census dataset on Disadvantaged Youth that is updated every five years. Continues to describe how the Department of Labor allocate funding based on Census data. The Department of Labor's mission is to protect Connecticut workers from labor law and violations, as well as push for global economic competitiveness through strengthening the state's workforce. This proposal promotes that pursuit with data informed decision making and assures that the funding to local workforce development areas is appropriately and distributed fairly.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Zachary McKeown, Advocacy Manager, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities: Supports the bill, states that the 119K Commission was created in 2024 and the goal for the commission was to develop a long-term strategy to address Connecticut's unspoken crisis. In response, CCM organized and staged five regional roundtables to hear from people working with young people, and to seek the public's input in developing solutions. Explains how the Young People First Plan was formed and listed their goals. States that CCM

supports efforts/funds to assists disadvantaged youth and to ultimately increase youth employment opportunities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None provided.

Reported by: Matthew Domejczyk

Date: 3/20/2025