

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7187

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A REPORT ON
EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH

Title: DISABILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/14/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2025

File No.: 412

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Raised Bill HB-07187 seeks to address a concern, specifically, from those suffering from disabilities, as to not receiving assistance by professionals knowledgeable in care of their specific disabilities, in the workplace. This bill would alleviate these struggles by making the recommendations previously made under a 2024 report, pursuant to the Office of Workforce Strategy, to so enacted by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, regarding their findings regarding the implementation of programs to provide more assistance for those with disabilities in the workforce in Connecticut.

This bill is in essence, furthering the goals of said previous 2024 working group, and implementing their findings as dictated by them to benefit not only those with disabilities, but the whole state by helping enfranchise those with said disabilities into the workplaces they wish to become employed in, thereby growing the economy.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Office of Policy and Management, Lead Planning Analyst, Heather Hull](#): Opposes this bill greatly as this office never, contrary to the language in the bill, commissioned such a study, as the bill states, yet they do appreciate its intent in helping those with disabilities seek employment. They have great qualms, though, with many of the activities entrusted to OPM are not within their operating purview, and therefore, their office will be of little aid to enforce the bill's statutes.

For example, in Section 1(a)(1), and Section 1(a)(3), the bill tasks OPM with analyzing and assessing possible pilot programs as to their feasibility and impact, which the office commends as necessary, but admit that they are restricted by grant programs and other such barriers making it impossible for them to do such analysis and give the go ahead to funding within the Governor's budget.

Also, without these proper resources allocated in the budget and through the declining federal funding to do these things, the office is completely unable to clarify and provide insight into many of the bill's concerns in many of its sections, including Section 1(a)(6), 1(a)(4), and 1(a)(2). Hence, the office deems this bill impossible to provide the required service and research for, given the lack of funds and resources from both state, and federal levels, and therefore, they ardently oppose this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Christian Allyn](#): Supports this bill given their own experience in the advantages of such assistance with their disability. And particularly in Section 1, Subsection 4, the increased funding for employers who wish to fully accommodate those with disabilities in their workplace, such as through programs like the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), would entice more employers to do so, and therefore, provide more support for those with disabilities.

[CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, Senior Policy Advisor, Julia Wilcox](#): Supports this bill because it would break down barriers to employment seen by those with disabilities by making their work lives easier by implementing the findings of the previous 2024 recommendations, pursuant to the necessary investigation on feasibility and benefit of the OPM and OWS.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Tom Atwood

Date: 4/4/2024