

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5833

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE EXPANSION OF

Title: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

Vote Date: 3/14/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/5/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Rochelle, 104th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Substitute language for this bill has been made in lines 5 and 10, which requires the program to be expanded in up to eight public high schools, rather than require that exactly eight high schools participate. In addition, line 41 allows, rather than requires, the program expansion to begin in fall of 2020.

This bill is to establish manufacturing pilot programs to eight qualified public high schools that will act as satellite programs to community-technical colleges, with the goal of introducing more young students to the possibility of a career in the industry.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed for House Bill No. 5833

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors: Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS) testified in support of HB 5833. CWCS states that “it is imperative that we adequately provide avenues to train for the jobs available in our state today.” CWCS stated that the act would better prepare students for the well-paying jobs our workforce so desperately demands.

Connecticut Manufacturers' Collaborative: Connecticut Manufacturers' Collaborative (CMC) held several strategic planning sessions with their own task force to better understand

the specific challenges that Connecticut's manufacturing workforce faces and to find solutions to address the issues. They concluded that the root of the challenge stems from "curriculum development and teacher shortages, to educational access and technology development and deployment." Their proposed solution to the issue is to create a Secretary of Manufacturing in Connecticut in order to move the manufacturing industry forward.

Multiple people testified in support of HB 5833, stating their interest in recruiting retired manufacturers who could apply their real world skills to the classroom. There is a shortage of instructors for manufacturing programs in Connecticut, and we must find ways to increase the number of instructors for our workforce training. It is suggested that we can achieve this by expanding the opportunities for retired potential instructors in our state by offering more instructor training and guidance to this demographic.

- [Nora Duncan, State Director, American Association of Retired Persons](#)
- [Donna Fedus, Gerontologist, Founder, Borrow My Glasses, LLC](#)

Multiple people support HB 5833, stating that "students can earn dual credit for both high school and college credit and be job ready, in a field in which they can make a livable wage when they graduate from high school and complete their internship." The establishment of these programs would be able to reach a wider range of community members, thus strengthening our future workforce.

- [Matthew Conway, Superintendent, Derby Public Schools](#)
- [Jim Gildea, Chairman, Derby Board of Education](#)

[Richard DuPont, Director of Community and Campus Relations, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Housatonic Community College](#): Richard DuPont testified in support of HB 5833. He states that the manufacturing and technology industries are imperative towards Connecticut's economic growth. There is an obvious demand for workers in these industries, with over 12,000 jobs that currently need to be filled. Mr. DuPont argues that HB 5833 will work towards solving this issue by exposing more students to the industry at a younger age.

[Elizabeth Fraser, Policy Director, Connecticut Association for Human Services](#): Elizabeth Fraser testified on behalf of Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) in support of HB 5833. In order to enable economic mobility in the state, we must make additional 'developmental education' opportunities for the students of our future workforce. Without access to quality training, students are excluded from potential opportunities of high-paying jobs, and are "left to piece together a 'survival income' in low-skill, low-pay jobs." HB 5833 would work towards building our future workforce of the manufacturing and technology industry.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed for House Bill No. 5833

Reported by: Beatrice O'Neil

Date: 03/28/2019