

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6455

AN ACT CONCERNING IMPEDING OR OBSTRUCTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INTERFERENCE WITH OR ASSAULT UPON A STATE

Title: CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER.

Vote Date: 3/29/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Judiciary Committee

Rep. Steven J. Stafstrom, 129th Dist.,

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill clarifies and increases penalties associated with impeding or obstructing the work of the General Assembly and interference with or assault upon a State Capitol Police officer. This bill increases the penalty for an assault on a Capitol Police Officer is a Class C felony, it also clarifies that interference with a Capitol Police Officer is a Class A misdemeanor, or a class D felony if it results in injury to a Capitol Police Officer. This bill was prompted by the attack of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. in January.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None offered.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports this bill stating it is necessary to ensure the members of the Connecticut General Assembly are safe from incidents such as the incident that occurred in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021.

AFSCME, Legislative Coordinator, Brian Anderson supports this bill stating that it ensures that assaulting a state capitol police officer is a serious offense and the penalty will serve as a deterrent to those who may consider assaulting an officer.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

American Civil Liberties Union- CT Chapter opposes this bill stating that Connecticut has laws in place that prevent interference with the legislative process and increasing penalties for disrupting the legislature is a solution in search of a problem. It is also stated that those more likely to be arrested would be marginalized people.

Reported by: Cassandra Gallion

Date: 04/05/2021