

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-393

AN ACT CONCERNING ROOM TEMPERATURES IN INSTITUTIONS OF

Title: HIGHER EDUCATION AND DWELLING UNITS.

Vote Date: 3/11/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/18/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Cathy Osten, 19th District

REASONS FOR BILL:

Temperatures in Connecticut have risen over the past century, leading to an increase in the number and severity of heat waves. Landlords and institutions of higher learning are not currently required to allow residents to use personal air conditioning devices.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Adds Section 2, which requires any residential building with more than 25 units to install or permit a tenant to install equipment to maintain an indoor temperature less than 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Stated.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Sen. Cathy Osten, 19th District- **SUPPORTS** – stating that students at Eastern Connecticut State University were not allowed to use personal AC units in dorm rooms, despite the heat.

Laura Bozzi, PhD- Director of Programs at the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health-
SUPPORTS- stating that the bill is a critical step towards implementing the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change. Connecticut has experienced a 3-degree

Fahrenheit increase in temperature since the end of the 19th century- in 1950 the state experienced 3 heat wave days annually, in 2050 we are expected to experience 44 annually.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The following **OPPOSE** the bill, stating that it does not consider the high costs landlords would face to retrofit the existing systems within older buildings, as well as presenting a fire hazard for the building and tenants:

Caroline Raynis

Paul Januszewski- LECOKY Properties LLC

Trevor Dorian

The following **OPPOSE** the bill, stating that state should not interfere with setting building temperatures:

Robert Jackson

John Souza- President, CT Coalition of Property Owners

Carl Lupinacci- Greater Bridgeport Property Owners Association

The following **OPPOSES** the bill:

Terry L. Waller

Reported by: Gabriel Turco

Date: 3/16/21