

Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-575

AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE REGULATION OF PROFESSIONAL BONDSMEN, BAIL ENFORCEMENT AGENTS AND SURETY

Title: BAIL BOND AGENTS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/11/2021

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

Co-Sponsors: Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.

Rep. Brian T. Smith, 48th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

In the state of Connecticut, bail bond companies and their agents operate with great discretion when it comes to arresting those that violate bail bond agreements. Despite insurers requiring certain measures and limits regarding the actions of bail bond agents when executing arrests, such agents often do not meet such requirements. Further, bail bond agents may enact what otherwise would constitute a violation against CT residents if committed by police. Recognizing this need to reform the current bail bond system, the intent of this bill in creating a task force to study the regulation of bail bond companies is to find areas to improve and the means of doing it.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Catherine A. Osten, State Senator of The Connecticut General Assembly

Sen. Catherine Osten supports this bill. Sen. Catherine Osten elaborates a need for regulating bail bond agents in her testimony through incident involving a constituent and such agents. In this instance, Sen. Catherine Osten believes the agents entered her constituent's residence illegally and operated in the field without a means to be held accountable under

current law. Sen. Catherine Osten believes the changes implemented in this bill will improve oversight of bail bond agents through greater transparency and communication between the various licensing agencies that oversee bail bond agents in CT.

Kelly McConney Moore, Interim Senior Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut

The ACLU of CT supports this bill as they see a legitimate need to hold bail bond companies accountable to state standards. The ACLU of CT claims that the bail bond industry throughout the United States remain largely unregulated and that bail bond companies often fail to require real standards of accountability. While the ACLU believes that making information about bail bond companies accessible is necessary, it is their expressed opinion that it is not enough to regulate said businesses.

Jeffrey J. Clayton, Executive Director, American Bail Coalition

The American Bail Coalition (ABS) supports this bill, at least, conceptually. It is the opinion of the ABS that more work beyond this bill is needed to create an efficient solution in regulating bail bond companies.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: John Gerke, Intern

Date: 3/29/2021