

# Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-711

AN ACT CONCERNING COVID-19 RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND  
REQUIRING FEDERAL REGULATORY ANALYSIS FOR PROPOSED STATE

**Title:** REGULATIONS.

**Vote Date:** 3/11/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/11/2021

**File No.:** 183

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

[Sen. Joan V. Hartley, 15th Dist.](#)  
[Sen. Christine Cohen, 12th Dist.](#)  
[Sen. James J. Maroney, 14th Dist.](#)  
[Sen. Norman Needleman, 33rd Dist.](#)  
[Sen. Steve Cassano, 4th Dist.](#)  
[Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.](#)  
[Rep. Gary A. Turco, 27th Dist.](#)  
[Rep. Michael DiGiovancarlo, 74th Dist.](#)  
[Rep. Patricia Billie Miller, 145th Dist.](#)  
[Rep. Ronald A. Napoli, 73rd Dist.](#)  
[Rep. Brian T. Smith, 48th Dist.](#)  
[Rep. Tammy Nuccio, 53rd Dist.](#)

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill would provide relief for small businesses in Connecticut impacted by the pandemic by preventing insurers from increasing a business' insurance premiums, and by exempting personal protective equipment from the sales and use tax.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

- Andy Markowski, State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business supports SB 711, particularly part 1 of the bill which seeks to address the anticipated rise in their unemployment taxes because of the large number of layoffs and the depletion of the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. This bill acknowledges that small businesses should not be penalized or suffer further financial distress as a result of record unemployment and layoffs.
- Joshua Rodriguez, Director of Public Policy and Economic Development for the Waterbury Regional Chamber supports SB 711 because it is a way to address the continued financial burdens caused by COVID-19 as it relates to the operating costs of small businesses. An increase in the small business insurance premium could mean the difference between financial viability during the pandemic
- Ashley Zane, Government Affairs Associate for CBIA supports SB 711 for the following reasons:
  - The first portion of the bill would prevent insurers from increasing a businesses' insurance premiums that are based on an increased number of claims due to COVID-19
  - CBIA supports the second portion of this bill which would prevent the inclusion of increased claims because of COVID-19 from being used when calculating an experience rating for a business
  - Furthermore, CBIA strongly supports the exemption of personal protective equipment from the sales tax, however, CBIA would like to see this exemption made permanent.
  - Lastly, CBIA supports the creation of a small business impact study when promulgating state regulations

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None

**Reported by: Jason Snukis (Assistant Clerk)**

**Date: March 19, 2021**