

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-902

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKING CONDITIONS.

Vote Date: 03/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor and Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

There are no official standards for air quality in schools.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None submitted

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

RAY ROSSOMANDO, DIRECTOR OF POLICY, RESEARCH, AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, CT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Their testimony cited the importance of including indoor air quality among the standards for working conditions. Indoor air quality in schools is especially important given the presence of children and the risks posed to everyone from poor conditions. There has been a spike in the number of educators being exposed to mold and other environmental toxins in schools and classrooms. They have spoken with parent groups about the illnesses that children are facing and the reports of credible incidents of illness which are staggering and getting worse. In light of COVID19, we've learned much about the role ventilation plays in the spread of infectious disease. CT has set a maximum temperature for dog kennels and pet shops but there are no minimum and maximum temperatures set for school classrooms. This inequity must be addressed. This bill provides an opportunity for the creation of a uniform process for addressing school indoor air quality. Guidelines would go a long way to help these issues. A survey by the CEA outlining concerns raised by teachers showed that even after reporting these issues, nothing was done. This bill brings CT in-line with national safety standards. They ask inclusion of HVAC maintenance repair standards. This is a fundamental issue for students and educators and immediate action is needed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted

Reported by: Marie Knudsen, Assistant Clerk

Date: March 17, 2021