

# Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5323

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE WAYS TO  
CONSOLIDATE OR ELIMINATE CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
**Title:** AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATORS.

**Vote Date:** 3/25/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/21/2022

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Education Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This legislation establishes a working group to study and make recommendations concerning the consolidation or elimination of unnecessary, obsolete, or redundant professional development and in-service training requirements in the education field. The legislation gives the working group until January 1, 2023 to submit a report to the General Assembly on their recommendations.

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

### **Charlene Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, CT State Department of Education**

"The Department conducted this study as a result of S.A. 16-9 and submitted Taskforce Recommendations to the Education Subcommittee at that time in 2017. We believe no legislative actions were taken regarding the previous taskforce work and would ask the legislature to revisit the previous recommendations before moving forward with this legislation. The Department also does not have the available staffing capacity to coordinate a new Taskforce on Professional Learning".

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

### **Andrew A. Feinstein, Legislative Chair, Special Education Equity for Kids in Connecticut (SEEK)**

"The mandate of the working group should be expanded to look at ways to make professional development and Inservice training more effective. Too often professional training days are used by teachers to catch up on their classroom work while sitting in lectures and absorbing

little of the content. There is much that needs to be part of professional development, especially training in the science of reading and training in de-escalation and restorative practices. Moreover, young teachers need strong mentors, both to learn the art of being a master teacher and to become a full member of the teacher community within the school".

**Kate Field, Teacher Development Specialist, Connecticut Education Association**

"To truly improve practice or enhance wellbeing, the professional development requirements must be reduced, and greater flexibility offered to district PDECs, allowing them craft a learning plan carefully tailored to their district's unique needs and circumstances. Creating a work group, similar to the 2016 task force, will engage stakeholders in a collaborative process to reduce the cumbersome requirements and find ways to make professional learning relevant, effective, and meaningful".

**Mike Muszynski, State and Federal Relations Manager, Connecticut conference of Municipalities**

"CCM supports HB 5323 which would create a working group to examine ways to consolidate or eliminate unnecessary professional development and in-service training requirements for educators. This would be a well-intended review of teacher training requirements, and CCM is hopeful that it could be a precursor to providing mandate relief to local governments".

**Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents**

"In its CAPSS Blueprint recommendation #16 (Teacher Certification), CAPSS endorsed a review of all teacher certification requirements and the clarification of teacher professional development requirements. H.B. 5323's goal for a working group to review and recommend the elimination of unneeded and redundant teacher professional development requirements aligns well with CAPSS' Blueprint recommendation #16. CAPSS is pleased to support H.B. 5323".

**Mary Yordon, Vice President, AFTCT PreK12 Council**

"We support HB 5323 which will establish a working group to examine Professional learning requirements, and we hope that this will empower local PDECs to fulfill their statutory responsibilities and lead to more engaging and individualized professional learning".

**Ashley Zane, Government Affairs Associate, Connecticut Business and Industry Association**

"I am here in support of HB 5323, "An Act Establishing a Working Group to Examine Ways to Consolidate or Eliminate Certain Professional Development and In-Service Training Requirements for Educators." CBIA, in partnership with our affiliate ReadyCT supports these efforts to enhance, update, and modify professional development and in-service training that may not be impactful or productive...CBIA and ReadyCT support the intention behind this bill but hope the committee will require a review of this report to avoid duplicative findings and improve the efficiency of the task force".

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Madison Chain**

**Date: 3/28/2022**

