

# Public Safety and Security Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5399

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING PROJECT LONGEVITY.

**Vote Date:** 3/22/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/17/2022

**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

Rep. Maria P. Horn, 64<sup>th</sup> Dist.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

Project Longevity has been a successful program to reduce crime and violence, including homicide. In July 2012, the program started in consultation with John Jay College and was funded by a federal grant. Though funding has stopped the program continued. It plays a role in gun-violence-reduction. The project is for those who are likely to commit or are victims of gun violence with members of the community such as law enforcement, ex-offenders, clergy and other members of the community. By expanding the initiative and involving Board of Regents, Governor's Workforce Council and workforce development boards, it is hoped that Project Longevity continues to reduce gun violence, that it will provide and expand services offered in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport and Waterbury. The services should include ways to increase and make more available educational training, training in trades, making available commercial driver license training and apprenticeships. Project Longevity Initiative is hopeful they can expand employment opportunities for those that they serve. This bill also requires the secretary to supplement programs and services that provide employment opportunities to those in the Project Longevity Initiative.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Marc Pelka, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning, Office of Policy Management, State of Connecticut**

HB5399 builds on PA21-153's implementation planning requirements. Since Project Longevity partners became aware of the bill, they have reviewed the language carefully with planning the efforts to fulfill its goal. Before finalization of this legislation Mr. Pelka asks that

the committee continue to engage in discussion with Project Longevity partners regarding maximize services to their clients.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Mike Muszynski, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**

Project Longevity is a successful program that brings local, state and federal law enforcement together with community members to help violence, particularly gang related activities. Not only is it focused on deterrence but providing support and services who want to turn away from violence. CCM would like the legislature to ensure that Project Longevity be appropriately resourced in the budget. This program is a resounding success in the cities in the state. Funding is necessary to build relationships, coordinate with agencies and create a system that community members can access.

**Rebecca Bombero, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, City of New Haven**

In 2015 program evaluation demonstrated that Project Longevity was successful in reduction of almost five Group Member involved incidents per month with the call-in program. During Covid the call ins were suspended and there was an increase in violence. In 2021, when Project Longevity resumed call-ins, it was noticed that there was a decrease in group activity. We were pleased that Project Longevity had been expanded to other cities and the Governor's State of the State call out that Project Longevity as an important community solution in the reduction of violent crime.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk**

**Date: 3/30/2022**