

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**  
**JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-5454

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**Title:** AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.

**Vote Date:** 3/29/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/18/2022

**File No.:**

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**SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

**REASONS FOR BILL:**

The reason for this bill is to require the Department of Administrative Services to conduct federal background checks for employees of departments under DAS' purview, and to require that current employees of such positions be subject to background checks every five years instead of every ten years.

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Michelle Gilman, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services**, stated that she supports this bill, as the centralized nature of Human Resources across state agencies within DAS would benefit from a streamlining of the background check process.

**Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services**, stated that his department supports this bill, on the grounds that it would streamline DDS' hiring process and protect individuals with intellectual disabilities, who are serviced by the agency. He further stated that a streamlined, DAS-administered background check system would fit the fluid nature of Human Services.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None Expressed

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, ACLU CT**, offered testimony in opposition to this bill, stating that it would create collateral consequences for individuals with criminal records by requiring unnecessary background checks. She stated that barriers to employment for formerly convicted individuals has a disproportionate effect on racial minority groups, and that the committee should consider amending the bill to utilize Section 46a-80, which states that the state cannot preemptively ban all people with a criminal record from seeking a specific position, but rather, the state is required to start from a place of non-discrimination and may only bar a person on the basis of their criminal history if a very specific individualized assessment is conducted.

**David Godbout, Constituent**, he expressed opposition to all bills put forward by the committee under the claim of nullification.

**Reported by: Cameron Clarke**

**Date: 3-29-22**