

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-427
AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE
Title: EDUCATION STATUTES.
Vote Date: 3/28/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Appropriations Committee
PH Date: 3/21/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This legislation allows the Town of Guilford to participate in the state-wide interdistrict public school attendance program, with the town of New Haven as the receiving district, starting the school year of July 1, 2022 and each year after. Additionally, the bill creates a state teacher shortage and retention task force.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

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

"The Department is supportive in concept of this proposal, which will expand choice options for students in the New Haven Public School (NHPS) system to attend Guilford Public Schools. This legislation is necessary as the Town of Guilford is not located in the ACES (New Haven area) RESC, which normally determines where students can attend choice programs. However we would note that no additional funding has been provided to support the per-pupil grants associated with increased open choice participation".

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc. (CABE)

"CABE supports SB 427, An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes. District are having difficulty finding bus drivers and any incentives, in this case a rebate on their license fee and criminal history records check, may help to attract applicants. The job market is pulling potential applicants in many directions. The

responsibilities of a bus driver from road safety and making sure students are behaving safely on the bus, are awesome responsibilities that not everyone wants to take on".

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Godbout

"The general assembly is not conducting its sessions in public and such activity is automatically void. The general assembly could meet and allow the public to view but has decided, instead, to provide citizens and residents a one square foot picture via CT-N broadcast and most human communication is displayed by body language, not spoken words...The role of government is to protect citizens' rights but this general assembly seems to think its just the opposite. The committee and its members clearly approve of a general assembly acting in a manner that voids everything it has done in the past two years and going forward. Citizens should simply nullify the illegal actions taken by the state".

*All testimony submitted to the Education committee regarding S.B 427 can be found on the CGA webpage.

Reported by: Madison Chain

Date: 3/28/2022