

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5232

AN ACT PROHIBITING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
FROM RECEIVING MONEY FOR SOLICITING STUDENTS TO GAMBLE

**Title:** ONLINE.

**Vote Date:** 3/7/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/16/2023

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

Rep. Amy Morrin Bello, 28th Dist.

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.

Rep. Eleni Kavros DeGraw, 17th Dist.

Rep. Gary A. Turco, 27th Dist.

Rep. John-Michael Parker, 101st Dist.

Rep. Kate Farrar, 20th Dist.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill addresses recent reports among public universities and companies that conduct online gambling, in which they solicit students to participate in online gambling, through school-provided lists and promotions. This bill would prohibit public universities from engaging in business deals with these online gambling companies, to protect students from unwanted solicitation.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[University of Connecticut, Executive Associate Athletic Director, Neal Eskin](#): supports this bill, and guarantees that UConn would never entertain a proposal that would allow for the direct solicitation of students for online gambling. He recommends that the committee defines the terms “introducing” and “encouraging” in the bill to provide clarity to universities on the types of business deals they can pursue. He ensures that UConn is categorically against the use of direct solicitation, but since the XL Center, where UConn holds games during the academic year, has plans to introduce a sports gambling facility during the 2023-24 academic year, UConn is looking for clarification on this situation.

[Assembly District, Connecticut General Assembly, Representative 28<sup>th</sup> District, Amy Morrin Bello](#): supports this bill, and highlights how agreements between university athletic departments and online-gambling companies, allow these companies to access school email lists and provide incentives for the schools to promote online gambling to students. It was stated that promoting gambling is linked with lower academic performance, increased risk of addiction, and potential financial ruin. It is also stated that this practice is contrary to the mission of universities, which is to educate and support their students.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[University of Connecticut Alumna, Marjorie Carson](#): supports this bill and states her strong disapproval of agreements created between university athletic departments and online gambling companies to profit off the direct solicitation of students. It was stated that promoting online sports gambling to vulnerable students can cause adverse mental health effects and financial hardship for students and should not be promoted by universities.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Brett Hurley**

**Date: 3/15/23**