

Appropriations Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6898

AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM THE JUUL LABS

Title: SETTLEMENT.

Vote Date: 4/20/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/24/2023

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:

The Appropriations Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To ensure that the Connecticut's share of the JUUL Labs Settlement funds is best utilized, this bill would require the Attorney General to submit a report to the Appropriations Committee by October 1st, 2023, detailing the amount of funds expected to be received, terms of the settlement, and recommendations of the expenditure of those funds related to smoking cessation and prevention.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[William Tong, Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General:](#) Attorney General Tong testified stating he appreciates the Committee's interest in ensuring that Connecticut's share of funds in the settlement with JUUL Labs is used as intended. He explained Connecticut's share of the \$438.5 million settlement is between \$16 million and \$19 million, with payments made between 2023 and 2027 or 2031. The Attorney General recommended distributing the settlement funds to support abatement, mitigation, cessation, reduction, and prevention of the use of nicotine or nicotine-synthetic products by residents under age 21. He also added that HB 6998 requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to distribute the funds to the Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs), which work with local communities on mental health and substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Jim Williams, Government Relations Director, American Heart Association \(AHA\)](#): Mr. Williams submitted testimony in support of HB 6898, and recommended that the funds from the JUUL settlement support the Tobacco Health Trust Fund, which would help to reduce smoking rates and prevent tobacco-related deaths and illnesses. Mr. Williams noted that tobacco use is a significant financial burden on Connecticut, costing the state an estimated \$2.03 billion yearly in health care costs and lost productivity. He stated that the JUUL settlement is an opportunity to make a real difference in the fight against tobacco use and make a lasting impact on the health of Connecticut residents.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None stated.

Reported by: Taylor Hyde

Date: 5/4/2023