

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1119  
AN ACT CONCERNING BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS WITH THE OFFICE OF  
**Title:** THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE.  
**Vote Date:** 3/27/2023  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 3/3/2023  
**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:**

Judiciary Committee at the request of the Office of the Secretary of the State

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To revise provisions involving the registration of business entities by lowering the apostille and authentication fees as well as the expedition fee. It also renames the Commercial Recording Division.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

The substitute language removed one phrase for clarity.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of the State:** She testified in support because, "a majority of the bill is aimed at creating a unified business maintenance filing system to make the business filing process efficient, easy and secure". She states that the bill makes several necessary changes, including: reduction of the apostille and authentication fees; requires all businesses to provide a North American Industry Code Standards (NAICS) code when forming rather than providing such code one year after they form; and, raises the reinstatement fee for businesses that have not filed required annual reports. She also requests that the committee add a fee of \$5 for all dissolution of business.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Pamela Lucas, CT American Immigration Lawyers Association:** She testified in support because the bill lowers the apostille and authentication fees from \$40 to \$20 and the fee for

expediting this service from \$50 to \$20. This reduction puts Connecticut more in line with other States in this region and eases the cost burden of authentication for immigrant residents.

**Dana Bucin, Honorary Consul, Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut, United State of America:** She testified in support because the bill will lower the apostille and authentication fees as well as fees for expedited service. She states that the higher fees have negatively impacted international business activity and immigrant populations in Connecticut. She believes lowering these fees will encourage and facilitate more international transactions and documentation exchange in Connecticut and benefit the foreign-born population that presently amounts to 15% of Connecticut's population.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by:** Jennifer Albrecht

**Date:** April 3, 2023