

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5730

AN ACT CONCERNING STAGGERED TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE TWO-

Title: GENERATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD.

Vote Date: 3/5/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2025

File No.: 140

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut is the first state to codify the two-generational strategy as the 2Gen Initiative, a statewide effort focusing the whole family on a path to economic mobility. Passed in 2015, the 2Gen Advisory Board began in 2017. Its membership includes legislators, state agencies, parents and families, and representatives of non-profits, business, philanthropy, and community organizations. Success of the initiative is reliant upon the Board's ability to advise on the changing needs and problems facing Connecticut's families.

HB-5730 provides needed structure to the Board's membership. Since 2017, membership has remained mostly stagnant. It is critical to the Board's mission to involve the next generation as members in its important work. The 2Gen initiative is ever evolving, identifying new needs and responding based on input from the Board. While updating the expertise and experience of the members is extremely important, so too is stability and institutional knowledge. HB-5730 solidifies the opportunity to bring on new members currently interacting with the relevant systems, building the pipeline for future membership without losing more than 1/3 of the Board's expertise and membership at any given time.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Office of the Early Childhood, Christina Morales, 2Gen Statewide Coordinator, Supports:](#)

The Advisory Board is composed of "parents, legislators, members of philanthropy, business leaders, and nonprofit organizations," several of whom are "appointed by legislative leadership." 2Gen successfully promotes "economic opportunity, mobility, and well-being for families," in part due to the Advisory Board's expertise and involvement in quarterly meetings

and work groups. The membership has not changed since its beginning. HB-5730 "will help ensure continuity in the work while allowing fresh insights from stakeholders who are currently engaged in economic mobility initiatives and programs that align" with the statewide 2Generational Initiative's changing roles. Integrating new members on to the Advisory Board safeguards its ability to effectively respond to families' needs by addressing "policies and programs directly affecting them."

Department of Social Services, Shantelle Varrs, Deputy Commissioner, Supports:

The Department of Social Services is an active participant in the 2Gen Advisory Board. HB-5730 improves the structure and work of the Board by guaranteeing "a blend of experienced and new board members." Members are appointed/reappointed to staggered three-year terms, capping turnover at 1/3 of the Board at any given time.

The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Megan Baker, Lead Asian American Pacific Islander Policy Analyst, Supports:

The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity administers the Two-Generational Advisory Board, working in concert with the Office of Early Childhood. The membership of this Board, which has remained mostly unchanged since 2017, includes "bipartisan legislative representation, agency staff, parents and representatives from non-profits, community-based organizations, businesses, and philanthropy." Sustaining a multigenerational approach in the long-term requires updating membership with the individuals "who have a direct connection working with families, are health and human services agencies, and [are] organizations in the state that support families and promote economic mobility, self-sufficiency and progress for those families." HB-5730 greatly improves the Board's success, guaranteeing turnover at a rate not to exceed 1/3 of the Board's membership at one time.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Rebecca Hyland

Date: March 31, 2025