

Human Services Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7107

AN ACT CONCERNING A JANITORIAL WORK PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR DISADVANTAGE AND A TASK FORCE TO STUDY EXPANDING GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

Title: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/19/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/6/2025

File No.: 469

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill essentially updates language in the janitorial work program administered by DAS to explicitly require small businesses and minority business to meet the programs employment and wage criteria. It also updates outdated language and establishes a task for to study governmental job opportunities for folks with disabilities.

This bill helps to ensure equitable employment opportunities to residents regardless of if they were for a big corporate store and a small business in town. Ensuring all employments through this program are fair while allowing our small businesses to thrive. It also includes a task force to further study employment opportunities for disabled residents to further include them in the community around them.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Department of Administrative Services, Commissioner, Michelle Gilman:](#)

supports this bill because it ensures that all businesses participating in the janitorial work program must meet the same employment and wage standards that protect workers with disabilities or disadvantages.

[Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services, Commissioner Amy Porter:](#)

supports the bill, specifically the first three sections which increase competitive and integrated employment opportunities. They also comment on the task force included in this bill and

thank the committee for including them, they also suggest adding the labor committee as a recipient of the task force.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[The Arc Connecticut, Director of Advocacy, Carol Scully:](#) supports this bill as the original program helps to employ folks with physical and cognitive disabilities and this bill would be a technical change to include small businesses.

[CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, Director of Government Relations, Ben Shaiken:](#) supports this bill because it strengthens and clarifies the Qualified Partnership program that includes updating outdated language and reinforcing requirements for small businesses. They also ask for membership on the task force mentioned in the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[The Kennedy Collective, President & CEO, Richard Sebastian:](#) opposes this bill because it excludes non-profit commercial janitorial contractors, like Social Enterprises, from eligibility for state contracts, which could result in the loss of hundreds of jobs for people with disabilities. They suggest amending the bill to include Social Enterprises as eligible commercial contractors.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 4/4/2025