

Environment Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7171

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION FOR THE

Title: AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

Vote Date: 3/24/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/17/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

Co-Sponsor:

Rep. Joseph P. Gresko, 121st Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), owning (as permitted by law) and overseeing several, disparate properties in the state at which their research and activities are carried out, must also maintain these facilities. Due to the nature of the work and properties themselves, the ability for the CAES Board of Control has historically appointed caretakers to farmhouses situated on the properties owned, in trust, by the Board. These caretakers pay rent (which is negotiated by the Board) and are responsible for safeguarding the trust property. At present, however, there is no explicit permission for these caretakers or that they may be employees at the Experiment Station. Allowing explicit the appointment of staff caretaker would preserve this practice and would be of continued benefit to the maintenance and operation of the properties.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Terry Jones, Vice President, Board of Control, CT Agricultural Experiment Station

Mr. Jones sent in testimony in support of HB 7171. The bill clarifies that the caretakers can include staff members at the Experiment Station. For decades the Board of Control has appointed caretakers to reside in farmhouses located on properties owned in trust by the Board. The caretakers pay rent (negotiated) and are responsible for safeguarding the trust

property which owns the two research farms. HB 7171 would simply codify the ability of the Board to appoint caretakers, which could also be staff members of the Experiment Station.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

2 residents expressed their support of H.B. 7171.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Judy Ganswindt

Date: April 7, 2025