

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1467

AN ACT REQUIRING A REVIEW OF THE COSTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Title: SERVICES PROVIDED BY PRIVATE PROVIDERS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/11/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Oversight Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to conduct a comprehensive review of the rates of tuition charged by providers of special education services to local or regional boards of education. The Commissioner is required to solicit comments from boards of ed concerning what rates are being paid for services. This review is required to include how rates are determined, reasons for variances in rates, comparison or rates charged for services based on diagnosis. Also, the review should include a report on the feasibility of implementing a fee for services model based on the recipient's diagnosis. The Commissioner is to submit a report to the Government Oversight and Education Committees by February 15, 2026, summarizing the findings of the review and any recommendations for legislation.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Added language about expanding report to include all providers of special education services and provision about criteria for approval as a provider.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Charlene Russell-Tucker: Commissioner, CT Department of Education:

Opposes this bill because the department is simply not equipped to handle the review outlined in the legislation. The department would need extensive resources to fulfil their proposed obligations and that would take time and come at a very high cost.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Andrew Feinstein: Special Education Equity for Kids, Legislative Chair:

Supports this bill because it provides a reasonable and responsible alternative to the proposed rate setting formula laid out in SB1244. Although they are in support, they would welcome an addition that would include the quality of care/education, not just the cost of it.

Lisa Hammersley: Executive Director, School and State Finance Project:

Supports this legislation because increases in costs of special education have skyrocketed and is crippling many school districts which is forcing them to cut costs elsewhere. This legislation would pinpoint ways in which the system can be made more efficient and thus help districts reduce one of their largest expenditures.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Gian-Carl Casa: President/CEO, CT Community Nonprofit Alliance

Alyssa Goduti: President, Childrens' League of CT

Karen Helene: President, CT Association of Private Special Education Facilities:

Opposes this legislation because they feel the study should include Regional Educational Service Centers, transportation services, evaluation of for-profit vs non-profit outplaced special education providers and approved vs non-approved providers. This testimony was also submitted for [SB1244](#).

Fran Rabinowitz: Executive Director, CT Association of Public School

Superintendents:

Opposes this bill because the proposed task force does not include a member of CAPSS. School superintendents are ultimately responsible for distributing the funds and ensuring they are used correctly; therefore, they should be included in the planning process.

Reported by: Greg Wolff, Griffin Olshan

Date: 3/25/25