

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-248 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF REESTABLISHING THE DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND STAFFING OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Title: REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen Cicarella

REASONS FOR BILL:

Requires the Office of Legislative Management to study the feasibility of reestablishing the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee within the Government Oversight Committee, including staffing, costs, and benefits of reestablishment. Requires OLM to report to the Government Oversight Committee by January 1, 2027.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Renee LaMark Muir, State Representative, 36th District: The testimony strongly supports SB 248, which proposes a study on reestablishing the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI), emphasizing that transparency and accountability are essential to effective government. Rep. LaMark Muir highlights PRI's past success as a bipartisan, evidence-based oversight body that conducted hundreds of evaluations, improved government efficiency, uncovered waste, and mismanagement, and strengthened public trust. She states that current alternatives like task forces lack the authority and permanence of PRI, and that a restored committee would provide structured, independent oversight of state programs and spending. The bill is presented as a prudent first step calling only for a feasibility study to determine how best to reintroduce this critical function and enhance accountability, efficiency, and confidence in government.

Paul Amarone, Senior Policy Director, Job Growth and Manufacturing, Connecticut Business and Industry Association:

Mr. Amarone supports SB 248, which calls for a study on reestablishing a dedicated legislative oversight body similar to the former Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee. He argues that such a body previously provided bipartisan, evidence-based evaluations of state agencies and that a study would help determine whether restoring this function could improve accountability, transparency, and data-driven policymaking. Amarone emphasizes that as state government has grown more complex and costly, a structured, ongoing review entity could better identify inefficiencies, assess program effectiveness, and strengthen public confidence, ultimately benefiting taxpayers and businesses.

Alex Knopp, Former GAE House Chair:

Mr. Knopp strongly supports reestablishing the Program Review and Investigations Committee (PR&I) immediately, rather than waiting for a full study under SB 248, arguing the legislature should restore its oversight powers now while conducting only a limited review of staffing and budget needs. The author contends that since 2017, when PR&I was eliminated, Connecticut has lost a critical bipartisan tool for independent investigation, policy analysis, and program evaluation, especially as more responsibility has shifted from the federal government to the states. Mr. Knopp emphasizes that PR&I historically improved efficiency, accountability, and policymaking through in-depth research and subpoena authority, and warn that failing to reinstate it would weaken the legislature's ability to address increasingly complex challenges and ensure effective use of public funds.

Ben Shaiken, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance:

Mr. Shaiken supports SB 248, arguing that reestablishing the bipartisan Program Review and Investigations (PRI) Committee would strengthen oversight and accountability for state programs that nonprofits rely on to serve over half a million residents. He notes that PRI historically produced valuable research on state services before being cut for budget reasons, and that while current task forces and working groups provide some insight, a permanent committee would offer more consistent, in-depth evaluation. Mr. Shaiken emphasizes that restoring PRI would help identify gaps in program effectiveness, improve the use of public resources, and support better policy decisions impacting vulnerable populations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

**Reported by: Clerk- Greg Wolff
Assistant Clerk- Mike Hamann**

Date: 3/20/26