

Appropriations Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5422 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA.

Vote Date: Joint Favorable Substitute

Vote Action: 4/1/2026

PH Date: 3/12/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Appropriations Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will authorize the University of Connecticut, within available resources, to conduct a study of unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP). UAP is a topic of concern to many residents, given potential impacts to airspace safety and national defense. There has been several reported UAP sightings over the past couple years. This study will help assess the feasibility and benefits of creating a state center to research and monitor unidentified aerial phenomena, including the financial resources required for operations.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

Changes UConn to the Office of Legislative Management within Section (1)(a) to contract with a nonprofit organization for the study and removes language requiring agencies (i.e. Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Office of Military Affairs) to allow access to information.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Kylene Perras, Assistant Dean for Operations & Strategic Initiatives, UConn: Assistant Dean Perras supports the intent of the bill and believes that the university is well positioned to conduct the study with the expertise on their faculty but raises concerns regarding implementation. UConn is requesting \$300,000 to conduct a comprehensive study to prevent strain on existing resources.

Ronnell Higgins, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP): Commissioner Higgins has concerns with Lines 9-10 which grants the University of Connecticut access to the data of state agencies and requests an amendment to the bill to omit these lines to adhere to data restrictions. Higgins underscores that much of the data

managed by DESPP is sensitive and cannot be released due to public safety and national security concerns.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rian Becker: Becker testified in support of the bill, believing that it will prove that Chester Arthur was the first alien President of the United States.

Paul Clark: Clark testified in support of the bill, arguing that while there is hysteria about UAPs, that should not preclude the state from studying them.

Michael O'Connor: O'Connor testified in support of the bill, stressing that there must be state oversight into the proven existence of extraterrestrial craft and entities in CT airspace.

Joe Hoxha, State Representative, Connecticut General Assembly: State Representative Hoxha testified in support of the bill, believing that state resources should be invested to research UAP, and stresses that no conclusions can be made without a thorough study. He adds that UAP is a bipartisan issue being discussed at all levels of government and that CT has the highest rate of UAP sightings per capita.

Nicholas Morganti, Sr. Principal Engineer, Pratt and Whitney: Morganti testified in support of the bill, underscoring that the public should not have to wait for the federal government to declassify documents related to UAP. This study will help the public understand what UAP are, the physical principles that govern their behavior and phenomenology and any technologies that have potential application.

Michael P, State Director, MUFON: Michael testified in support of the bill, highlighting its potential to increase coordination and knowledge sharing between academia, government and ongoing UFO investigations.

Marik von Rennenkampf and Sean Collins, Government Affairs Lead, Americans for Safe Aerospace: Collins and von Rennenkampf testified in support of the bill, emphasizing the need for an objective study regarding a multidisciplinary topic, that involves the fields of national security, aerospace safety, engineering, and sociology. There has yet to be a coordinated research effort between government agencies, and this is an important initial step. They also express concern about potential UAP over military installations which threaten national security and aerospace safety.

Ngozi Ibrahim: Ibrahim testified in support of the bill arguing that Black people need their own colony in space.

Kevin Knuth, Professor in Physics, University at Albany (SUNY): Professor Knuth testified in support of the bill, highlighting that an additional UAP study would be beneficial to his ongoing research and that UAP is a global issue, factor in air safety and could offer insight into advanced off-world non-human craft.

Dr. Tim Gallaudet, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (ret.): Dr. Gallaudet testified in support of the bill, sharing that he viewed previously classified UAP video collected on U.S. Navy F/A-18 aircraft during a training exercise in 2015, whereby there was a miss with an unidentified aircraft that

nearly resulted in a midair collision. Gallaudet also added that the federal government is only disclosing a fraction of UAP through its All Domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) in the Department of War, and that state level research would promote transparency on UAP that could yield socioeconomic benefits. The findings of the study could translate into advances across many sectors, including energy, transportation, medicine, agriculture, astrobiology, psychology, sociology, and international relations.

Harry L: Harry testified in support of the bill, sharing that his wife left him because he believed in the existence of aliens. He states that the truth is more important than life and sex and that aliens will devour humankind and are demonic.

Erie et al.: Faculty and Staff, Yale University: Erie et al. testified in support of the bill, believing that the state could benefit from structured research and reporting capacity on UAP involving scholars across disciplines and coordination with state agencies. Erie et al also highlight that efforts are underway in other states – including New Jersey – to establish a university-based research center on UAP.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Mike Santangelo, Harold Crevier, Alton Blodgett and Kelly Gawitt: Santangelo, Crevier, Blodgett and Gawitt testified in opposition to the bill, stressing that it is a waste of taxpayer money. Crevier and Gawitt added that there are larger issues which warrant the state's attention.

John Levin: Levin testified in opposition to the bill, underscoring that if passed it would be a "poster child for moronic idiocy."

Reported by: Kyle Zingler

Date: 4/6/2026