

Senate Education Committee

Ava Hawkes 271-4151

HB 513, relative to the degree granting authority of Signum university and relative to the authority of the higher education commission.

Hearing Date: March 16, 2021

Time Opened: 10:37 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:40 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Hennessey, Ricciardi, Kahn and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires approval by the higher education commission as a prerequisite to the granting of a degree by an educational institution. The bill also authorizes Signum university to grant degrees, subject to approval by the higher education commission.

Sponsors:

Rep. Allard

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Cordelli

Rep. A. Lekas

Rep. Boehm

Who supports the bill: Representative Rick Ladd, Representative John Potucek, Corey Olsen

Who opposes the bill: Robin Vogt

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Ruth Ward – Senate District 8

- Senator Ward introduced HB 513 in absence of the prime sponsor, Representative Allard.
- This bill is very similar to SB 19 which passed the Senate Education Committee and the Senate as a body.

Corey Olsen – Founder and President, Signum University

- Supports this bill.
- Made himself available for questions as he previously testified on SB 19.
- Senator Ward reiterated how Signum University is a totally online program.

Laurie Alden

- Supports this bill.
- Former graduate of Signum University.
- Made herself available for questions pertaining to the student perspective.
- Senator Ward recalls Ms. Alden's testimony on SB 19 on the good work she has done following her degree.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 18, 2021