



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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360 BROAD STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3706

General Law Committee
Public Hearing
March 5, 2020

Testimony in Support of

S.B. 13, "An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Licensed Occupations."

Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agustino, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee, I write to you in support of military spouses and Governor's Bill, S.B. 13, "An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Licensed Occupations." As the Adjutant General for the State of Connecticut, I serve as the head of the Military Department and command the armed forces of the state including the National Guard. In that capacity, I am responsible for the well-being of my members and their families.

Section 8 of Governor's Bill, **S.B. 13, "An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Licensed Occupations"** seeks to ease the burden on military spouses in acquiring an occupational license in Connecticut when they accompany their spouse to this state on military orders and hold a similar occupational license from another state. Military spouse occupational licensing reciprocity has long been an initiative of the Department of Defense as it contributes to service members' quality of life and retention in the armed forces. Appropriately recognizing the nature of active duty military service, the bill does not require that a military spouse become a Connecticut resident in order for the bill's provisions to apply. I note that S.B. 13 does not exclusively apply to military spouses. The provisions of section 8 of the bill also apply to any person who establishes residency in Connecticut. I support this bill on both accounts as it benefits military families and broader workforce development throughout the state.

The Connecticut National Guard (CTNG) specifically stands to benefit from this bill in two ways. First, though most members of the CTNG serve-part time, approximately 25% of our 5,000 strong total force serves in a full-time capacity. Whether an active duty posting or position of federal civilian employment in the CTNG's full-time force, S.B. 13 may serve as a benefit to attracting qualified out of state personnel. Second, military spouse licensing is increasingly included as a criteria in federal military basing decisions. When the Army or Air Force is considering providing new equipment or missions to the National Guard of various states, they are also looking at a state's military spouse licensing provisions as part of their decision making process. Our own Bradley Air National Guard base was recently considered for basing of the few new C-130J aircraft procured for the Air National Guard. The C-130J is the newest version of the aircraft flown by our own 103rd Air Wing - the Flying Yankees. S.B. 13 stands as a positive incremental step towards assisting your National Guard in competing for federal resources and bringing the associated capabilities, personnel, and funding into our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis J. Evon, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Francis J. Evon, Jr.
Major General
The Adjutant General