

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6316

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVALUATION OF MILITARY TRAINING

Title: EVALUATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

Vote Date: 3/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/18/2021

File No.: 225

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' Affairs Committee
Rep. Mary Welander, 114th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill adds the Commissioner of the Consumer Protection and the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs (or their designees) to determine jointly with the Labor Commissioner if a veterans' military training is equivalent to all or part of an apprenticeship program for a specific trade. This bill will allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of the veterans' application to include military expertise and protect worker safety.

***Proposed Substitute Language: In line 4, bracket "two" and after the closing bracket insert five" because this incorporates the intent of HB-6314 to recognize that veterans may need additional time to apply to this program due to the challenges of reintegrating into civilian life.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Commissioner Thomas Saadi, Department of Veterans Affairs](#): Commissioner Saadi offered written and spoken testimony on HB-6316, as well as other bills that related to licensure of veterans. In addressing all bills, he noted that PA 14-131 dealt with some of these issues and recommended that the Committee request that the Office of Legislative Research conduct a review of existing comparative certification programs and identify those areas of licensure where enabling legislation is needed in order for a licensing agency to recognize military training. The Commissioner did not provide comment on the time extension included in HB-6314.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Support for HB-6316

[Kimberly Glassman, Director, Foundation for Fair Contracting of CT](#): Ms. Glassman provided written and spoken testimony. She noted that military experience is already being taken in consideration when reviewing applications, and therefore this legislation may not be necessary. She urged the committee to promote the programs that are already in statute and already in practice.

[Cameron Champlin, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 777](#): Mr. Champlin provided written and spoken testimony in agreement with the intent of the bill, but that PA 14-131 makes this bill unnecessary.

[Steve Jones](#): Mr. Jones provided written testimony in support of HB-6316 and HB-6314

Support for HB-6314

[Rep. Jane Garibay, 60th Dist](#): Rep. Garibay provided written and spoken testimony in support of this bill. She noted that military training evaluations are necessary for apprenticeship programs and veterans currently only have two years to apply for this evaluation. She shared that "according to a 2018 Forbes article entitled, Overcoming Barriers of Veteran Employment, one of the biggest barriers to a smooth employment transition for veterans is an inability to match certain skills learned in service with those that are in need by our local employers" and that "providing our heroes with more time to receive training evaluation waivers will improve outcome in employment and self-sufficiency."

[Kevin Moriarty HARP Home Services LLC](#): Mr. Harp provided written testimony from his perspective as the owner of an HVAC company. He noted that employees with military experience are "easily our best source of workers," but that many times, they need extra time to adjust to civilian life and that is why extending the grace period to five years is important.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Erica Byrne

Date: March 25, 2021