

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6004

AN ACT ELIMINATING SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR AS AN ELIGIBILITY

Title: CRITERION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS' BENEFITS.

Vote Date: 3/7/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/28/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' & Military Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill removes wartime service as an eligibility requirement for state benefit programs, including, Tuition waivers, bonus points on state and municipal civil service exams, Commissioner's temporary assistance, Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund, free special plates and motor vehicle registrations for individual who have certain conditions or disabilities, property tax exemption, funeral honor guard detail, and exemption from town hawker or peddler permit fees.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Alison Weir, Executive Director, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center \(CVLC\)](#): Supports this bill

It is long past time for us to remove the artificial distinction between service during a congressionally declared "time of war" and otherwise. For instance, the service members who served during the Cold War, officially not a "time of war," faced the same rigors of training, exposures to weapons testing, and heightened readiness as those who served during a "time of war" in a stateside billet. They all exhibited the same willingness to serve their country and go where they were needed. Veterans benefits independent of disability rating should not be subject to whether one happened to be in the service when Congress declared a war or not.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None submitted

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted

Reported by: Robert Mayne

March 14, 2023