

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-236

AN ACT CONCERNING A FEE WAIVER AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE

Title: NATIONAL GUARD.

Vote Date: 3/14/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/27/2024

File No.: 158

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To waive the payment of summer and winter term extension fees for certain veterans and members of the national guard enrolled at public institutions of higher education in the state.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

No administration or agency provided testimony on this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Daniel DePasquale, Vice President, National Guard Association of Connecticut

Provided testimony in support of this bill. DePasquale opened his testimony expressing serious concern over the nation's armed forces difficulty in meeting recruitment goals. While the Connecticut National Guard (CTNG) has experienced the effects of this trend, they have not suffered nearly as much as other branches, which DePasquale attributes to the substantial investment by the state. The tuition waiver constitutes a significant incentive for qualified citizens to serve in the armed forces and will hopefully result in a mitigation of recruitment concerns in the future.

Michael Mungavin, Connecticut Air National Guard

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Mungavin feels that in present law there exists an oversight in not waiving tuition during winter and summer terms for service members. As

guard members may often miss several semesters during their period of service, it becomes necessary to attend classes in winter and summer semesters or else fall behind their fellow classmates. Mungavin provides an anecdote where airmen under his command were activated for a period of two years, requiring him to prolong his graduation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No testimony was offered in opposition to this bill.

Reported by: Garrett Smith

Date: 3/29/24