

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5294 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS
Title: REGARDING THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Vote Date: 3/10/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill responds to a number of concerns regarding outdated language in Section 27 of the Connecticut General Statutes raised by the Military Department. Currently, the unorganized militia of Connecticut consists of all men ages 18 to 45 and any women who voluntarily join the militia; this bill expands the militia to include all individuals between those ages. Additionally, the bill address concerns over the administrative burden that goes along with serving on the Governor's military staff, a largely outdated advisory committee for the Governor; the bill changes the automatic members of the staff from representatives from each branch of the Connecticut Military Department to just the Adjutant General, Assistant Adjutant General, and any other designees appointed by the Governor or the Adjutant General. Lastly, to bring the name of the military training facility in Niantic in line with existing naming conventions, the bill changes the name from "Camp Nett at Niantic" to "Camp Nett"

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

In response to critiques from members of the committee, the substitute language for this bill removes sections 3-5 of the bill, leaving only the sections that expand the unorganized militia to include women.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Maj. Gen. Francis J. Evon Jr, Adjutant General, Connecticut Military Department:](#)

General Evon expressed his support for this bill on behalf of the Military Department, explaining that this bill is part of an ongoing effort to update the Title 27 of Connecticut's

General Statutes. He explained that even though the unorganized militia is rarely ever activated, the policy of only including males in the militia is outdated and the militia should not include any sex-based bias. He went on to point out that the current requirement to appoint members from all branches of the armed forces and from the state militia creates an unnecessary administrative burden on the agency, and as such reducing the required appointments to the Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutant General relieves an unnecessary burden. Finally, he noted that changing the name of "Camp Nett at Niantic" to "Camp Nett" simply brings the name in line with Army facility naming conventions.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Allison Weir, Executive Director, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center: Ms. Weir expressed her support for this bill as a woman veteran. She asserted that the changes proposed to make the unorganized militia gender neutral are reasonable and would be consistent with changes to make the US Armed Forces more gender neutral in the last few decades, especially since the unorganized militia has not been called into action since the Civil War. She rebuked any claims that opposition to this language change could be considered chivalrous, and she noted that while drafts are not popular it would be impractical to exclude half the population from the unorganized militia because of their gender.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 3/20/26