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## OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7064 (as amended by House "A")\*

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Under current law, any municipality that does not have a local veterans' advisory committee (see BACKGROUND) and does not provide funding for a veterans' service officer must designate an employee to serve as a veterans' service contact person. This bill substitutes the term "municipal veterans' representative" for the term "veterans' service contact person," allows volunteers to serve in this position, and subjects them to all the existing training requirements. (The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance conducts such training at least two times per year.)

Under the bill, a volunteer designated as the municipal veterans' representative must:

1. be a resident of the municipality;
2. be a veteran or have practical experience handling veterans' issues;
3. be available to veterans in person, by phone, or by email for a minimum number of hours per week as the municipality may establish; and
4. file a monthly performance report with the municipality that includes the names of the veterans assisted, services or referrals provided, and any other information as determined by the municipality.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

\*House Amendment "A" adds a provision that requires volunteers

serving as municipal veterans' representatives to (1) be available to veterans a minimum number of hours per week as the municipality may establish and (2) file a monthly performance report with the municipality.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

**BACKGROUND**

***Veterans' Advisory Committee***

By law, any municipality may establish a local veterans' advisory committee to, among other things:

1. coordinate reemployment, education, rehabilitation, and adjustment to peacetime living for veterans and their dependents;
2. cooperate with all national, state, and local government and private agencies to secure services and benefits for veterans and their dependents; and
3. encourage and coordinate vocational training services for veterans (CGS § 27-135(a)).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (02/19/2019)