

# Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-800

**Title:** AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MEDAL OF MERIT FOR CIVILIANS.

**Vote Date:** 2/19/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/14/2019

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill would establish a Medal of Merit for Civilians, equivalent to the Connecticut Medal of Merit, which would be awarded to civilians who distinguish themselves by meritorious service or accomplishments that contribute significantly to the mission of the armed forces of the state. The hope is that a Medal of Merit for Civilians will help strengthen National Guard recruitment and community engagement.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

[Evon, Jr., Francis J., The Adjutant General, Military Department, State of Connecticut](#): Major General Evon, Jr. testified that the creation of a Medal of Merit for Civilians would give the Military Department an appropriate means of recognizing civilians whose meritorious service or achievements contribute significantly to the accomplishment of the mission of the armed forces of the state. The Adjutant General noted that a Medal of Merit for Civilians would not only foster engagement between the National Guard and the civilian community, but could also bolster recruitment, as members of engaged communities are more likely to volunteer for service.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None offered for S.B. No. 800

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None offered for S.B. No. 800

**Reported by: Benjamin S. Watson, Asst. Clerk      Date: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**