

# Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-863

AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION FOR MEMBERS OF

**Title:** THE CIVIL AIR PATROL.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/7/2019

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Sen. Carlo Leone

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

As the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force, the volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol may be called upon to assist in emergency services and disaster relief missions. Currently, the state of Connecticut does not offer legal protections for Civil Air Patrol members who take leave of work and answer the call for aid. As written, S.B. No. 863 prohibits employers from discriminating against, disciplining, discharging, or penalizing an employee if the employee is an active member of the Civil Air Patrol and is called to respond to an emergency. Federal military reservists currently enjoy similar protections, and S.B. 863 would extend such protections to members of the Civil Air Patrol at the state level.

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

None expressed for S.B. No. 863.

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

[Carlo Leone, Senator, Connecticut General Assembly](#): Senator Leone testified that S.B. 863 affords the Civil Air Patrol the same protections already enjoyed at the federal level by reservists from the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. The senator stated that without such protections, many reservists would be unable to serve.

[James Ridley, Sr., Commander, CT Wing, Civil Air Patrol, USAF Auxiliary](#): Colonel Ridley, Sr., testified that the Civil Air Patrol is comprised of approximately 60,000 members across

fifty states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and is engaged daily in search and rescue, homeland security, and disaster relief missions through the direction of the United States Air Force Air Combat Command. The colonel further stated that the state of Connecticut should extend to Civil Air Patrol members the same employment protection measures currently in place regarding employee leave and National Guard duty.

[David McGuire, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut](#): Mr. McGuire testified that the ACLU-CT strives to guarantee every person in Connecticut equal rights, and that we should respect, rather than discriminate against, those who put their lives in danger to save others and keep our state safe. Therefore, the ACLU-CT strongly urges the committee to support S.B. No. 863.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed for S.B. No. 863.

**Reported by: Benjamin S. Watson, Asst. Clerk      Date: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019**