

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7061

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFERING OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES
FROM THE STATE MOTOR POOL TO VETERANS' CHARITABLE

Title: ORGANIZATIONS.

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
Rep. Charles J. Ferraro, 117th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

H.B. No. 7061 is designed to make available to qualified veterans' charitable organizations, as described in section 27-100f, any surplus vehicles from the State of Connecticut's interagency motor pool, and that such vehicles will not be priced below \$2,000. The intent of the bill is to provide support for veterans' charities, help veterans maintain long term stability and self-sufficiency, and to thank the men and women of Connecticut who served in the armed forces.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Commissioner Josh Geballe, Department of Administrative Services](#): Commissioner Geballe stated the Department's opposition to H.B. No. 7061, noting that the proposed language specifying that surplus vehicles not be sold for "less than \$2,000" artificially inflates the price value of the vehicle, in most cases beyond that of the Kelly Blue Book value. The Commissioner also explained that charitable organizations have the ability to register and bid for surplus vehicles, and that the DAS is empowered to donate any unclaimed vehicles to any organization that makes such a request. For such reasons, Commissioner Geballe noted that while H.B. No. 7061 was well-intentioned, it was not necessary.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Rep. Charles J. Ferraro, 117th Dist.](#): Representative Ferraro testified that the legislation would support veterans' charities, help veterans maintain long term stability and self-sufficiency, and would be an acknowledgement of our collective appreciation for the service and sacrifice of Connecticut's veterans.

[VetFuel, Inc.](#): The Board of VetFuel, Inc., a Connecticut-based 501(c)(3), testified as to the need for cheap vehicles for veterans in Connecticut by citing the numerous veterans who live in poverty and are unable to access V.A. hospitals, the emotional injuries caused by depending on others for rides, and the isolation and depression that can result from being unable to leave the house. VetFuel, Inc. stated further that H.B. No. 7061 would help to reduce these stressors, particularly among rural, minority, and poor veterans, all of whom are especially vulnerable.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No other opposition was expressed for H.B. 7061.

Reported by: Benjamin S. Watson, Asst. Clerk Date: February 25th, 2019