

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7064

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVES.

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:

H.B. No. 7064 was drafted to change the term "veterans' service contact person" to the more widely used "municipal veterans' representative." The bill also allows volunteers to serve in such positions, thereby affording municipalities greater flexibility and possibly a modest amount of savings.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs](#): Commissioner Saadi noted that the bill not only renames the "municipal veterans service contact person" to the more commonly utilized "municipal veterans' representative," but also offers the municipalities greater flexibility in selecting a service contact person, all without fiscal impact.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities](#): Mr. Collins testified in support of H.B. No. 7064, calling it a "common sense solution" that would not only grant towns greater flexibility when appointing municipal veterans' representatives, but could potentially provide modest savings to a municipality by allowing for the use of a volunteer, rather than a paid employee who would be pulled from their regular duties to meet their obligations as a veterans' service contact person.

[K. Robert Lewis, Chairman, The American Legion Department of Connecticut Legislative Committee](#): Mr. Lewis testified that The American Legion supports the changes to legislation proposed by H.B. No. 7064, and therefore its passage.

[Daniel C. Thurston, Chairman, Connecticut Veterans and Military Coalition](#): Mr. Thurston, in addition to his role as chairman of the CVMC, is also the municipal veterans' representative for Harwinton. Mr. Thurston stated that he heartily supports H.B. No. 7064 to permit volunteers to serve veterans in their communities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed for H.B. No. 7064

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