

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7245

AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCE ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS IN
CHARTER SCHOOLS AND INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOLS BY

Title: MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Vote Date: 3/12/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/7/2019

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

One of the most challenging parts of moving to a new state is when a child needs to transition from one school district to another. H.B. No. 7245 (LCO 5842) permits non-resident members of the armed forces to enter their non-resident children into the lottery process for charter and inter-district magnet schools in anticipation of moving to Connecticut. It is the hope of the committee that the bill will ease the stress and confusion of soon-to-be resident service members by providing an opportunity for military families to enjoy the range of schools offered to Connecticut residents.

Proposed Substitute Language: The language of the original bill provided for eligible non-resident service members to participate in the enrollment lottery process if the member and student would move to and reside in Connecticut during the school year for which enrollment was sought. H.B. No. 7245 (LCO 5842) altered that requirement, mandating that the move and establishment of residency happen prior to the beginning of the school year for which enrollment was sought. Additionally, H.B. No. 7245 (LCO 5842) introduced a requirement that a copy of the member's military orders be provided to the relevant schools.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Harold E. Cooney, Northeast Regional Liaison, United States Department of Defense: Mr. Cooney testified in support of the bill, though requested that it be expanded to include all Connecticut public schools. He noted that service members typically receive official military orders for upcoming assignments 90 days to 6 months prior to their move, and that permitting

families to enroll their children in schools and specialized programs at the same time as their peers would not only help avoid disruptions in the educational process, but also ease integration into their new communities. Mr. Cooney expressed the Department of Defense's gratitude for the efforts taken by Connecticut to support military members and their families, and emphasized that the policy puts children of military families on a level footing with their peers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed for H.B. No. 7245

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Ruben Filipe, Connecticut State Director, Northeast Charter Schools Network](#): Mr. Filipe testified that the bill is well-intentioned and has the potential to make Connecticut a more attractive place to live, but that the language as written would make it too difficult for public charter schools to accurately predict and plan for future growth and enrollment. While the Northeast Charter Schools Network opposed the bill as currently written, Mr. Filipe expressed an interest in working with the committee to clarify the language so that the NECSN could lend its support.

Reported by: Benjamin S. Watson, Asst. Clerk Date: March 22nd, 2019