

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7246

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE

Title: GUARD.

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
Rep. Quentin W. Phipps

REASONS FOR BILL:

Under current statutes, the Governor can only call to active duty the State Guard when the National Guard has been called to active duty or if, in the opinion of the Governor, such a call is imminent. Such restrictions were contrary to existing practices in the Military Department, which resulted in then-Attorney General George Jepsen issuing a 2017 formal opinion stating that such uses of the state guard were in accordance with the agency's practice. H.B. No. 7246 reflects that formal opinion, and clarifies the Governor's authority to call to active duty the State Guard independent of any federal action regarding the National Guard, thereby affording the state a cost efficient means of completing military missions in a timely manner in case of emergency.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Francis J. Evon, Jr., the Adjutant General, Connecticut Military Department](#): Major General Evon, Jr., testified that an audit report interpreted the statutes to say the State Guard could only be called to state active duty if the National Guard was called to active duty. This interpretation of the statutes was contrary to the Military Department's existing practices, and so the department sought a formal opinion from the Attorney General. The Attorney General found the department's use of the State Guard to be appropriate, and H.B. No. 7246 was proposed to clarify the Governor's authority to prevent future confusion.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed for H.B. No. 7246

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed for H.B. No. 7246

Reported by: Benjamin S. Watson, Asst. Clerk Date: March 15th, 2019