

# Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-861

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF "SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR"  
AND STATE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS'

**Title:** SERVICES.

**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

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Under Connecticut's current statutes, a veteran who was not a resident of the state prior to enlistment must have since maintained at least two years of continuous residency in order to qualify for services provided by veterans the residential services facilities. S.B. No. 861 removes the two year residency requirement, and streamlines the language defining "service in time of war."

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

[Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs](#): Commissioner Saadi testified that by removing the two year state residency requirement for admission to the Department's Residential Services program, the state would be enacting laws that mirror what is already practiced by the department. The bill also removes redundant text, helping to clarify the definition of "Wartime Service."

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

[Daniel C. Thurston, Chairman, Connecticut Veterans and Military Coalition](#): Mr. Thurston stated that the CVMC supports clarifying statutory language defining "service in time of war," as well as the removal of residency requirements for certain benefits.

[Paul Small, Law Student Intern, Quinnipiac University School of Law Civil Justice Clinic](#): Mr. Small testified that the bill was a step in the right direction, but that going forward the

language regarding "Wartime Service" should be removed entirely. Mr. Small contended that veterans who served in non-combat operations between the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Eras are unfairly disadvantaged, as their successors who served in similar capacities and with similar responsibilities during the Persian Gulf Era enjoy additional benefits by virtue of their service dates.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed for S.B. No. 861.

**Reported by: Benjamin S. Watson, Asst. Clerk      Date: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**