

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-968

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY TO MACHINISTS JOB TRAINING

Title: PROGRAM FOR VETERANS.

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
Sen. Saud Anwar

REASONS FOR BILL:

While all members of the armed forces acquire valuable skills during their service, some have a harder time than others transitioning back into civilian life. S.B. No. 968 establishes, within existing resources of the Labor Department, a program to provide assistance to veterans hoping to earn an advanced manufacturing certificate from public institutions of higher learning. The program will also help graduates of such certificate programs secure employment in the field of advanced manufacturing. It is the goal of S.B. No. 968 to increase the viability of advanced manufacturing as a career for veterans, thereby strengthening Connecticut's industries and providing veterans with a career path that utilizes the skills they acquired while in service.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Kurt Westby, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Labor](#): Commissioner Westby expressed his support for the intent of S.B. No. 968, but stated that the Department of Labor could not support the bill because, while the bill proposed a thoughtful and needed service for veterans, the Department of Labor's staff is neither equipped nor funded to carry out the responsibilities outlined in S.B. No. 968

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Daniel C. Thurston, Chairman, Connecticut Veterans and Military Coalition](#): Mr. Thurston testified that the CVMC supports S.B. No. 968, as it provides veterans an opportunity to adapt the skills they acquired while in service to careers for their future.

[Stephen Kennedy, Connecticut Team Leader, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America](#): Mr. Kennedy testified that S.B. No. 968 could help ease the transition from the military to civilian life, something that can be exceptionally challenging. Additionally, Mr. Kennedy mentioned that S.B. No. 968 could be beneficial for Connecticut companies like Electric Boat and Sikorsky, as they are always looking for properly-trained employees. Mr. Kennedy did qualify his support for the bill by noting that it was contingent upon the appropriate funding for current Department of Labor veterans training programs remaining in place.

[Gary Minor, Senior Director of College Relations, Goodwin College](#): Mr. Minor praised the committee for introducing S.B. No. 968 and offered the support of Goodwin College, provided the bill be amended to include private institutions of higher learning.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed for S.B. No. 968

Reported by: Benjamin S. Watson, Asst. Clerk Date: March 19th, 2019