

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-638

AN ACT CONCERNING A FEE WAIVER AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE

Title: NATIONAL GUARD.

Vote Date: 3/7/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/28/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' & Military Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill expands the higher education tuition waiver program for eligible veterans and active National Guard members to include payments of any extension fees for educational extension programs and summer school sessions at community-technical colleges, UCONN, and the Connecticut State University System (CSUS).

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None submitted

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Robert Burgess, President, National Guard Association of Connecticut, Inc.,:](#)

This bill supports recruiting and retention in the Connecticut National Guard. It also provides equality to our Soldiers and Airmen as it creates consistency across our Connecticut public colleges and university. The Connecticut National Guard tuition waiver is a cornerstone education benefit of service bestowed upon Connecticut's citizen Soldiers and Airmen and it continues to serve as an important recruiting and retention tool as well as an invaluable benefit for those in service to begin or continue their educational journey and attain goals that may have been out of reach.

Joel Niemann, Veterans service Coordinator, Quinebaug Valley Community College:

Many of our military members who are serving our state and country are left behind when it comes to college education. These service members are not yet eligible for GI Bill benefits, and because they do not yet obtain a DD214 they cannot use the tuition waiver. I run into this issue in my office quite often, and I believe that it is restraining our national guard and reservist service members from getting a head start on their education.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted

Reported by: Robert Mayne

Date: March 14, 2023