

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6910

AN ACT ESTABLISHING WAITING LIST EXCEPTIONS FOR SERVICE-

Title: CONNECTED VETERANS IN CERTAIN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

Vote Date: 2/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/13/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee
Rep. Kurt Vail

REASONS FOR BILL:

The intent of the bill is to make accessible housing in long-term care facilities easier for service-connected veterans by establishing an exception to being a part of potential extensive waiting period for admission into long-term care facilities. This helps to ensure access to care that is well deserved and delivered in a timely manner.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Department of Aging and Disability Services: Ms. Mairead explained the struggle that veterans currently face when accessing care in long-term facilities, which is severely limited in Connecticut. She noted that this bill rewards their sacrifice to their country by giving them the ability to receive and retain care locally, which helps improve their emotional and psychological well-being.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Emily Trudeau, Chairperson, Connecticut Bar Association's Veteran and Military Affairs Section: Ms. Trudeau expressed her belief in the intent of the bill but added that it does not go far enough with assistant veterans in long-term care facilities with dementia. She highlighted the disproportionate impact dementia has of the veteran community and urged the committee to pursue legislation that ensures secure housing for these veterans and all veterans with cognitive impairment.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No one provided testimony in opposition to the bill.

Reported by: Patrick Riley

Date: 2/21/25