

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1152

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT FOR

Title: THE JOINT ENLISTMENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 2/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 1/30/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, requested by Connecticut Military Department

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program incentivizes enlistment by giving current National Guard members, retirees, and militia members \$500 when they refer someone to enlist. Given that the program has resulted in over 100 new enlistments over the last fiscal year, this bill appropriates \$169,000 to the program.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

CT Military Department, Office of the Adjutant General: The testifiers stated that their office supported this bill. They described the success that the Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program had with a \$169,900 fund during fiscal years 2024 and 2025. They also emphasized the importance of recruiting new servicemembers in order to maintain the National Guard's capacity to respond to domestic emergencies and natural disasters. This testimony was provided by:

- **Major General Francis Evon, Adjutant General**
- **Brigadier General Ralph Hedenberg, Assistant Adjutant General**
- **Tucker Salls, Legislative and Communications Program Manager**

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Several National Guard Association of CT Members: The testifiers expressed their support of this bill, specifically mentioning the success of the program and the importance of recruitment to the National Guard Association of CT. This testimony was provided by:

- **Katie Zarzycka, President**

- **Daniel DePasquale, Vice President**

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 2/20/2025