

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6724

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE IN

Title: RECOGNITION OF "THE BORINQUENEERS".

Vote Date: 3/11/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/13/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Anthony Nolan, 19th Dist.

Rep. Geraldo Reyes, 75th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would create a special license plate in recognition of "The Borinqueneers", the primarily Puerto Rican Sixty-Fifth Infantry Regiment of the United States Army. Given the unit's underrepresentation in history and their importance to the US Military in the early 20th century, establishing a license plate to commemorate them would give the unit recognition that it has not had for decades.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Geraldo Reyes, State Representative, Connecticut General Assembly:

Rep. Reyes expressed his support for this bill, explaining their history and their contribution during World Wars I and II and the Korean War – all of this in spite of the discrimination they faced. He noted that the Borinqueneers' legacy lives on through those who remember them, and this bill would provide another way to do so.

Allison Weir, Executive Director, Connecticut Veterans' Legal Center: Ms. Weir expressed her support for this bill, noting that the Borinqueneers served with multiple success in the Korean War. She pointed out that the success of the US Military is largely due to the diversity of its troops, something that should be celebrated and recognized.

Additional Testimony: Seven other individuals expressed their support for any measures that would help veterans. Testifiers included:

- **Nancy Comeau**
- **Randy Cyr**
- **Hannah Linnell**
- **Peter Plona**
- **William Sacchi**
- **Robert Wnek**
- **Kieran Edmondson**

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 3/20/2025