

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6735

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION OR ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY UPON OR ABUTTING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OR AGRICULTURAL LANDS BY CERTAIN FOREIGN

Title: ENTITIES.

Vote Date: 3/11/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/13/2025

File No.:

Disclaimer: *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Vincent Candelora, 86th Dist.
Rep. Tom O'Dea, 125th Dist.
Rep. David Rutigliano, 123rd Dist.
Rep. Tim Ackert, 8th Dist.
Sen. Jason Perillo, 21st Dist.
Rep. Lezlye Zupkus, 89th Dist.
Rep. Tami Zawistowski, 61st Dist.
Rep. Devi Carney, 23rd Dist.
Rep. Craig Fishbein, 90th Dist.
Rep. Mark Anderson, 62nd Dist.
Rep. Michael DiGiovancarlo, 74th Dist.
Rep. Kurt Vail, 52nd Dist.
Sen. Jeff Gordon, 35th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would prevent foreign governments, political parties, and individuals from the Federation of Russia or the People's Republic of China from owning land abutting military installations or agricultural land. Given the uptick in geopolitical tension and increase in national security threats, protecting the sanctity of agricultural and military developments – and the privacy of the latter – is a growing priority. This bill seeks to address those concerns by ensuring that potentially harmful foreign entities cannot buy land adjacent to agricultural and military developments for the sake of espionage or sabotage.

The substitute language of this bill addresses concerns about foreign entities being able to spy on military facilities from a long distance by implementing a three-mile radius of review around military installations within which the Connecticut Military Department can issue a recommendation for or against a foreign entity's purchase of land.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut House Republican Office: The Connecticut House Republican Office expressed its support for this bill, asserting that national security should be a top priority for the Connecticut General Assembly. The Office explained that multiple other states have adopted similar laws recently and that, given the number of military installations in Connecticut and the importance of these installations, the committee should support this bill.

Emily Trudeau, Chair, Connecticut Bar Association Veteran and Military Affairs Section: Ms. Trudeau expressed her support for this bill and recounted that while she served in Japan, residential properties next to her base had a clear view of all the assets and ships on base. She stressed the importance of keeping military installations private and free from prying eyes.

Melissa Donahue, Former Intelligence Analyst, United States Army: Ms. Donahue expressed her support for this bill but suggested that the committee expand the provision in it to cover all foreign entities, corporations, and nationals.

Additional Testimony: Nine individuals expressed their support for this bill and any measures that would help veterans.

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

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 3/20/2025