

Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1381

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT WING CIVIL AIR PATROL YOUTH

Title: CAMPS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Rep. Mark W. Anderson, 62nd Dist.](#)

[Rep. Kenneth Gucker, 138th Dist.](#)

[Sen. Eric C. Berthel, 32nd Dist.](#)

[Rep. Joseph P. Gresko, 121st Dist.](#)

[Rep. William Heffernan, 115th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, 105th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Lezlye Zupkus, 89th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.](#)

[Rep. William Pizzuto, 71st Dist.](#)

[Rep. Karen Reddington-Hughes, 66th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Mark DeCaprio, 48th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Mitch Bolinsky, 106th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Vincent J. Candelora, 86th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Ben McGorty, 122nd Dist.](#)

[Rep. Tom O'Dea, 125th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill provides an exception for the Connecticut Wing Civil Air Patrol where statute had previously mandated licensing for all youth camps. This would allow the Civil Air Patrol to operate its camp at a base within the state where it has recently been unable to do so due to licensing restrictions.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Allows the Civil Air Patrol within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection the ability to establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp without obtaining a

license issued by the office as long as the CT Wing Civil Air Patrol establishes, conducts or maintains their youth camp on property owned or leased by the state and utilizes a facility operated exclusively by the Military Department. In addition to that they are required to comply with any regulations adopted by the commissioner as it pertains to medications and monitoring diabetes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Justin Blain, Assistant Legal Officer, Connecticut Wing Civil Air Patrol

Blain notes that the license requirement would essentially prevent the organization from being able to hold camps within the state. As they are unable to comply with certain license inspection requirements due to their temporary use of pre-existing facilities. Additionally, the camps are already heavily regulated by policies from the organization's national headquarters. As a result of the licensing requirement, recent camps have either been cancelled or moved out of state.

Cathy Osten, Senator, 19th District, Connecticut General Assembly

Osten notes the invaluable experiences and opportunities offered to youths who attend the Connecticut Civil Air Patrol youth encampments. She expresses how the camps promote discipline and physical fitness. Furthermore, the camp helps inspire and develop a new generation of U.S. Air Force and Space Force members. Osten believes that if the Civil Air Patrol is unable to operate its camp, it would be a disservice to youths looking to start serving their country at a young age.

Lieutenant Colonel Kimberly Mevers, Civil Air Patrol U.S. Air Force Commander

Mevers organization oversees the Civil Air Patrol and its operations and acts as a liaison between other federal agencies and the Civil Air Patrol. Their organization is responsible for the coordination and review of patrol policies and regulations including a cadet protection regulation. Mevers supports the proposed measure on behalf of the Civil Air Patrol.

Neil Talbot, Northeast Region Operations Director, Civil Air Patrol

Talbot believes the licensing requirements for camps are largely directed towards for-profit organizations not affiliated with the government, rather than the Civil Air Patrol's camp. The testifier notes that the Civil Air Patrol operates under congressional authority as an arm of the Air Force for the purpose of homeland security. Talbot finds that the proposed bill would alleviate undue burden of the licensing requirements that were implemented in 2023.

The following testified in support of the bill on the following grounds:

The testifiers speak to the positive developmental impact the summer encampments can have on one's life. Additionally, the testifiers note the safety and well-regulated nature of the camps. The testifiers have concerns that the licensing requirement would place undue burden on the camps.

[Meghan Brownell, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Christopher Clark, Cadet Programs Officer, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Captain David R. Kania, Squadron Commander, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Corrine Folsom-O'Keefe, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Lieutenant Colonel David Poppel, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Major Olga Simoncelli, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Adam Spreace, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[David Stansfield, Director of Cadet Programs, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Robert Talley, Director of Finances, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Jimmy Ummacheril, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Carlos Vega, Unit Commander, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
[Kenneth Zill, DOV, Civil Air Patrol -- Supports](#)
Colonel Ashley LaPlante, Wing Commander, Connecticut Wing Civil Air Patrol -- Supports

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Jack Stein

Date: 3/28/25