

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-278 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS TO ADDRESS
Title: MILITARY INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE.

Vote Date: 3/10/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Judiciary

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to protect victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking by ensuring that any Military Protective Orders (MPOs) issued against a servicemember can be used in court as evidence while considering a Civil Protective Order.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

Based on the recommendations of the Judicial Branch, the substitute language removes a section of the bill that references the National Crime Information Center's index of criminal justice information and instead creates an independent state registry of MPOs. This change clarifies the Judicial Branch's administrative role in the filing of MPOs.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

External Affairs, Judicial Branch: The Connecticut Judicial Branch takes no position on this bill, but the branch urges an implementation of new language in section 3 of this bill to clarify if the military orders are being registered to the court and if the Judicial Branch would be responsible for registering those orders. This was addressed in the substitute language.

Natasha M. Pierre, State Victim Advocate, Office of the Victim Advocate:

Submitted written testimony stating she is in support of this bill and believes that it will help protect victims. The bill ensures that information is presented to judges and law enforcement officials within the registry. She also noted the role that military officials should play in the

process, stating that commanders should refer protected persons to the appropriate state resources.

Melissa Willette, New England Regional Liaison, Department of Defense: Supports this bill and states that implementing this legislation would motivate victims and create environments for military personnel to promote readiness and bridge the gap between separate legal systems.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Liza Andrews, Vice President of Government Relations, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Submitted written testimony advocating for support of this bill. Provided information about the prevalence of domestic violence within the military community and the importance of being able to transition back into a civilian lifestyle, as well as not forcing victims of domestic violence to relive their experiences.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Paula Kay Bolageer

Date: 3/16/26