

Public Safety and Security Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-372 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT WING CIVIL AIR PATROL YOUTH CAMPS.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was introduced after a significant outcry from members of the Civil Air Patrol, who have found that due to overarching regulations placed on youth camps, they have had to outsource their programming to outside of Connecticut. With easing these restrictions, the youth camps of the Civil Air Patrol would be able to relocate their programming back to Connecticut and further offer their services as a place for the youth of Connecticut to learn military style leadership skills and better expand their budget, focusing on learning for those involved.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jay Farley, Chief of Staff, Civil Air Patrol CT: Mr. Farley is in support of the bill because it would exempt the Civil Air Patrol from the CT Camp license requirements.

Justin Blain, Director of Cadet Programs, CT Wing Civil Air Patrol: Mr. Blain is in support of the bill. He states that the CAP is a congressionally chartered, federally funded, 501(c)(3) organization and the only official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. He adds that the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has over 600 members including cadets from ages 12-21 and also senior adult members. He states that there is only one location within

Connecticut where they hold a weeklong summer encampment. He requests the committee pass the bill because the requirement of the camp license prohibits encampments from being held because they use an existing state-maintained military installation. He adds members of the CAP are bound by the policies, regulations, and manuals which require routine background checks for senior members, has strict policies against hazing and corporal punishment, etc.

Ashley LaPlante, Wing CC of Connecticut Wing, Civil Air Patrol: Ms. LaPlante is in support of the bill. She explains that the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol encampments are designed to be a military-like setting for cadets to both learn and teach leadership skills as well as team building skills. She states that the youth camp license statute is an obstacle in continuing these programs. She adds that there is a requirement that the encampment would need an on-call physician to supervise the staff nurse. She explains that their regulations prohibit members from administering medications; instead they are only able to secure member's medications and allow them to self-administer with supervision. She adds that having a physician and nurse would be cost prohibitive to members.

Sharath Babu, Captain, Civil Air Patrol: Mr. Babu is in support of the bill. He states that the CAP has 307 cadets, and provides annual trainings for members. However, for the past few years they have been unable to hold encampment due to camp licensing restrictions. He states that as a result they have had to seek facilities in neighboring areas. He adds that this has created hardship on families, especially ones hesitant to send their children out of state. He says that it is disheartening to see young cadets not be able to stand next to their peers. Mr. Babu states that the CAP is an official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and its encampments are federally structured training programs. He also notes that exempting CAP from the camp licensing statute would restore the ability to hold these trainings in Connecticut.

Nicole Martini, LCSW: Ms. Martini is in support of the bill because encampment is a program important for fostering leadership, discipline, teamwork, and civic responsibility. She states that rising general costs and soaring food service expenses have made encampments difficult to host. She claims that bringing encampment back to Connecticut would, among other things, restore access for local cadets and families, and reduce travel burdens and associated expenses.

Lance Marchesseault: Mr. Marchesseault is in support of the bill. He believes the CAP is an outstanding organization which helps develop young adults into capable leaders. He adds that any investment in this organization is worth it because the volunteers' "are some of the most selfless individuals [he's] encountered."

Kristen McNulty, CAP Volunteer: Ms. McNulty is in support of the bill. She states that in 2025 and 2026 encampments were moved to Massachusetts while waiting for the passage of a bill exempting CAP from CT's camp license bill. She adds that the requirements conflict with CAP guidance in some areas.

Hacah Goggin, RN: Ms. Goggin is in support of the bill as a mother of a cadet. She states that the CAP has been an important experience for her child. Through the program her child has gained invaluable leadership skills, exposure to aerospace education, and a deep sense of civic responsibility. She adds that the logistical and financial burdens of maintaining traditional "youth camp" licenses for military-style training exercises remove important

resources from cadets. She claims that this bill is common sense for many reasons including reducing redundancy, ensuring safety, and protecting program accessibility.

Laura Stenzi: Ms. Stenzi is in support of the bill. She states that her son has been a member of Civil Air Patrol for 2 years, and it has been an amazing program for him and others around him. She adds that having to travel outside of state has been a huge burden for many of those involved in the program.

Stefania King: Is in support of the bill for reasons unstated.

Anonymous 4: In support of the bill. They state that the CAP is an amazing youth program that promotes STEM, Emergency Services Education, Pilot/flying education, and leadership. They claim that as a parent of a cadet they always felt comfortable leaving their child at CAP activities. They add that these activities provide important training and skill building for young people to succeed.

Anonymous 5: As a father of a CAP Cadet, they are in high support of the bill. They believe that the CAP Program offers essentials for the growth and wellbeing of the cadets and the peers they influence. And having the ability and resources to hold encampment in-state will make it more accessible.

Anonymous 6: Supports the bill because it ensures annual funding for encampment to be brought back to Connecticut.

Anonymous 7: They support the bill. They state that if the bill does not pass encampments will continue to be held outside of the state. They add that this will inconvenience CAP children and adult volunteers.

Anonymous 8: They state that Civil Air Patrol encampments have been an important part of cadet life for over a hundred cadets in Connecticut. They claim that unlike youth camps, the program is offered only briefly as part of a larger cadet program. They state that the arrangement and fees makes camp license requirements infeasible to obtain. They add that CAP places importance on youth safety and is open to oversight, however, the requirements were designed for different organizations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous 3: Is in opposition of the bill for reasons unstated.

Reported by: Emma Rybacki, Clerk
Olivia Buczak, Assist. Clerk

Date: 3/26/26