



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE



2018 Annual Report Regarding Public Act No. 14-131
AAC The Findings of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 29-161(q) subsections (b) and (c), the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)/Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) is required to waive both the security officer training requirements and the one hundred dollar (\$100) fee for security guard license applicants meeting the statutory criteria.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 4-1bb(c), on or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, DESPP is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, and to the Labor Department, that shall include the following:

- (1) The number of service members who applied for a military training evaluation pursuant to this statute;

For calendar year 2018, a total of thirty-six (90) service members applied to DESPP for a military training exemption/waiver. Service member applicants represented the Army or Army National Guard (66), Marine Corps (9) and Navy (5), Air Force (7) and Coast Guard (2). Seventy One (71) were active duty or active duty reservists and nineteen (19) applicants were retired/honorably discharged. The gender composition of the applicants was eighty (80) males and ten (10) females.

- (2) the number of service members whose application was approved;

All of the service member applications were approved.

- (3) the number of service members whose application was denied, and data on the reasons for any such denial;

Of the service members who met the criteria set forth in the law, none were denied.

- (4) the licensing authority's processing time for applications submitted by service members and the average processing time for all applications;

During the 2016 calendar year, DESPP identified and closed a loophole in the application process for all security guard applicants. The new process rescinded the policy of issuing what amounted to provisional security guard cards pending the completion of the applicant's fingerprint-supported

background check by the FBI. This change was the result of a review of procedures conducted following the mass shooting in Orlando that identified numerous times in the past few years that guard cards had been issued to prohibited individuals prior to completion of the FBI background check. The average processing time for all applicants, including service members, is now between six to twelve weeks, depending on backlogs in the relevant DESPP units.

- (5) information on the licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit;

The DESPP website includes information regarding the training and fee waiver for security guard license applicants. Such posting also directs applicants to contact security licensing personnel from SLFU for additional information and specific requirements. In addition, all SLFU licensing personnel were provided notice and applicable procedural information relative to C.G.S. 29-161(q) so that they would be better able to assist military personnel seeking such licensure to "subject matter experts" within SLFU having prior or active military service and specifically designated to assist service members in the application review and licensing process.

- (6) information on whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state; and

It continues to be DESPP's experience that existing law appropriately addresses the challenges service members face when applying for relevant military security training and licensing fee waivers with this agency.

- (7) recommendations on improving the licensing authority's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members, including, but not limited to, the issuance of temporary or provisional licenses, certificates or registrations.

The processing time of fingerprint cards delays the applicant licensing period significantly. The length of time it takes to license an applicant lends itself to room for improvement. DESPP is in the process of acquiring and implementing an automated solution that will drastically reduce processing times, however it is expected that the project will not be completed until 2019 or 2020. Short of issuing provisional licenses and the public safety concern raised by that practice, military applicants could be placed in a "priority status" at the front of the line for processing by the fingerprint unit. While this could improve the wait time for a military member to become licensed, there would still be a wait time, and the reduction in delay would be at the expense of non-military applicants.