

Act Number:	09-004	
Bill Number:	861	
Senate Pages:	1044, 1128-1131	5
House Pages:	1988-1992	5
Committee:	Veterans: 178, 181, 195-196, 208-209, 217, 218, 225, 227	10

Page Total: **20**

S - 580

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2009**

**VOL. 52
PART 4
1015 - 1350**

rgd
SENATE

19
April 14, 2009

Transportation Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 157, Senate Bill Number 861, Mr. President, move to place this item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 159 is marked PR. Calendar 162, Senate Bill Number 773, Mr. President, move to refer this item to be Transportation Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 163, PR. Calendar 164, is marked PR. Moving to calendar page 12, Calendar 165, PR. Calendar 169, Senate Bill Number 919, Mr. President, move to refer this item to the Committee on Public Safety and Security.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

rgd
SENATE

103
April 14, 2009

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Before voting -- calling for a vote on the first consent calendar, Mr. President, would move that all items previously noted for referral to various committees be immediately transmitted to those committees.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Would now ask the Clerk to call the first consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please make a roll call vote for the consent calendar, also.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call on the consent calendar has been called for in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

Mr. President, those items placed on the first consent calendar began the calendar page one, Calendar Number 364, Senate Joint Resolution Number 73; Calendar 122, Senate Joint Resolution Number 64. Calendar page 2, Calendar 123, Senate Joint Resolution

April 14, 2009

Number 65; Calendar 124, Senate Joint Resolution
Number 66; Calendar 125, Senate Joint Resolution,
Number 67; Calendar 126, Senate Joint Resolution,
Number 68. Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 230,
House Joint Resolution Number 106; Calendar
Number 231, House Joint Resolution Number 107;
Calendar 232, House Joint Resolution Number 108.
Calendar page 4, Calendar Number 233, House Joint
Resolution Number 109; Calendar 234, House Joint
Resolution Number 110; Calendar 235, House Joint
Resolution Number 111; Calendar 236, House Joint
Resolution Number 112; Calendar 308, Senate Resolution
Number 14. Calendar page 5, Calendar Number 309,
Senate Joint Resolution Number 72; Calendar
Number 339, Senate Resolution Number 15; Calendar 340,
Senate Resolution Number 16; Calendar Number 387,
House Joint Resolution Number 116. Calendar page 7,
Calendar Number 105, Senate Bill Number 780. Calendar
page 11, Calendar Number 154, substitute for Senate
Bill 222; Calendar 157, Senate Bill Number 861.
Calendar page 20, Calendar Number 261, substitute for
Senate Bill 959; Calendar Number 262, substitute for
Senate Bill 960. Calendar page 22, calendar Number
313, Senate Bill Number 947. Calendar page 23,

Calendar Number 315, Senate Bill Number 1012;

Calendar 322, substitute for Senate Bill 488.

Calendar page 26, Calendar Number 366, substitute for
Senate Bill 784. Calendar page 27, Calendar 371,

substitute for Senate Bill 243. Calendar page 28,

Calendar Number 375, substitute for Senate Bill 1021.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 383, substitute for Senate
Bill 886.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed
on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could you please call for a roll call
vote on the consent calendar again.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to
the chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on
the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return
to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have
voted, please check your vote. The machine will be
locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

rgd
SENATE

106
April 14, 2009

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar

Number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes. The Senate will stand at ease.

Chamber at ease.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the next item we'd like to take up is on Senate Agenda Number 1, previously adopted. That is Emergency Certified House Bill Number 6715. Would ask the Clerk to call that item from Senate Agenda Number 1.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calling from Senate Agenda Number 1, Emergency.

H – 1043

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2009**

**VOL.52
PART 7
1947 – 2283**

rgd
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

105
April 22, 2009

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members to the chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? All members please check the board and make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take a tally. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House bill 6076.	
Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	8

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill is passed.

Clerk please call Calendar 438.

THE CLERK:

On page 23, Calendar 438, Senate Bill Number 861,
AN ACT CONCERNING RETIREMENT FROM MILITARY SERVICE,

rgd
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

106
April 22, 2009

favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety and Security.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Graziani.

REP. GRAZIANI (57th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call House Bill -- Senate Bill 861 and I be allowed to comment on it. I move for the acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before -- the question is on acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative, you may proceed.

REP. GRAZIANI (57th):

Mr. Speaker, what this bill does, basically includes the enlisted personnel for the Connecticut National Guard. Currently, as the bill stands, it only is applicable to officers as well as warrant officers. What this bill does, it levels the playing field, if you will.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, and members of the chambers, allow officers to be promoted to the next

rgd
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

107
April 22, 2009

highest ranking rank that they -- occur when they retire. This promotion, I might add, is not recognized federal-wise, only statewide. And the promotions have to go, obviously, through a chain of command, which we have established and is being incorporated as we talk now.

This bill had strong backing from our adjutant commander, General Thad Martin, Debbie Newton whose the legislative Chair of the National Guard association, Dennis Oparowski, who's the cochair of the Connecticut National Guard association and Weldon Schlossberg, Senior Master Sergeant, who retired.

This bill is long overdue and I urge acceptance and passage.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Coutu.

REP. COUTU (47th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you. I just want to follow up and thank the chairman of the veterans committee for speaking up on this bill.

This is a good bill, and as many of you know, we have thousands of soldiers, some who served up to 44

years within the state and the National Guard and other reserve units. This bill allows the military units and our commanders to give those sergeants and other military members the rank they deserve. There are certain occasions where a soldier at a certain rank does not have the opportunity to get the next rank because of manning and staffing members.

So we support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Care to remark further? Representative Harkins.

REP. HARKINS (120th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of the bill. It is long overdue. I'd like to thank our Chairman from the Veterans Committee and his good work in moving this bill forward. And again, this bill only applies to those National Guard members in the state of Connecticut. And I urge my fellow colleagues to support the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Care to remark further on the bill? Would you care to remark further

rgd
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

109
April 22, 2009

on the bill? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? All members please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 861 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting 145

Necessary for Passage 73

Those voting Yea 145

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 6

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill is passed.

Clerk, please call Calendar 187.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**SELECT
COMMITTEE
ON VETERANS'
AFFAIRS
1 – 311**

**2009
INDEX**

hl/gbr SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS 10:00 A.M.

DENNIS OPAROWSKI: Good morning.

REP. GRAZIANI: Good morning, sir.

DENNIS OPAROWSKI: And you did pronounce it correctly thank you. You're in.

I am Dennis Oparowski, an Army veteran, and a 2003 Iraqi Freedom Veteran. I still serve today with the Connecticut National Guard and, I am also the co-legislative chair of NGAC, the National Guard Association of Connecticut representing all of our members on several bills today, Raised Bill Number 862, An Act Concerning Members of the National Guard Called to State Active Duty; Raised Bill 6408, An Act Concerning Profession Liability Insurance Policies and Members of the Connecticut National Guard Called to Active Duty, also; and then in support of Senate Bill 860, False Representation of Military Status; Senate Bill 861, Retirement from Military Service, Senate Bill 863, Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and H.B 6409, An Act Concerning Military Families.

To start off, Bill 862 to give you a little information, the state for that on the -- concerning the members of the National Guard called to state active duty. The state depends on dual service military members as first responders to emergencies in our state. The explanation of a dual-status technician is this: They are civil service technicians that must be a National Guard member, and they must wear the uniform of the branch they serve in on the job Monday through Friday. They -- they are the soldiers and airmen you see every day throughout the state, and you may even see several of them walking through this building

hl/gbr SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS 10:00 A.M.

Now I, on a personal note, have this insurance. When I deployed in '03 I paid my \$550 or so of liability insurance, even though I was not there, my business is by appointment only, so nobody -- it's incorporated with my home, so nobody was there. I still pay that liability insurance even though there was nobody there.

So what this bill is asking for is just to somehow request, and I'm sure there'll be some -- some other people here who can give you some better information on their side, of the pros and cons of how insurance companies may have to do that. They may have concerns also, but it's just asking to postpone that until you return from active duty.

I know when I went, again, I was able to put my car in storage. It wasn't being used. They charged a fee. Maybe that's the way to go in this respect.

And moving on again, Senate Bill 860, the False Representation of Military Status, along with Raised Bill 861, An Act Concerning Retirement from Military Service, and Raised Bill 6409, An Act Concerning Military Families.

All are three bills before you today requiring some additions and clarifications in the written statements. You'll see certain things underlined or bracketed, so within the wording of these bills, you know, that's what's required with that. They're pretty clear and concise, and after you read them, I hope you will pass these as amendments to them.

Raised Bill 863, An Act Concerning Emergency Management Assistance Compact. You have that

that's -- that's what we need.

JOHN HOLLIS: Yeah. He don't --

REP. GRAZIANI: That's what we need.

JOHN HOLLIS: He don't sugarcoat it. (Inaudible) ship as well yours, I might add.

REP. GRAZIANI: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Any questions for Mr. Hollis?

If not, always a pleasure my friend.

JOHN HOLLIS: Thank you, again, or as in the Navy we did (whistling) sweepers, sweepers, start your brooms, give a clean sweep, done four and half, take all trash and garbage to the fan tail.

REP. GRAZIANI: Dismissed, John.

Is there anyone else from the public?

Debbi would you please step forward, Debbi Newton.

DEBBI NEWTON: I'm not sure I want to follow that. My eloquence is just gone at this point.

SB 860

SB 863

HB 6405

SB 861

HB 6406

Good morning, Representative Graziani, and members of the Select Committee on Veterans affairs.

HB 6394

HB 6410

SB 862

HB 6408

For the record, I am Debbi Newton, legislative chair and past president of the National Guard Association of Connecticut, and a 29-year member of the Connecticut Army/National Guard.

You have several bills before you today that

hl/gbr SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS 10:00 A.M.

NGACT supports, many of which provide clarifications of language in existing statute. Senate Bill 860, An Act Concerning False Representation of Military Status adds the physical display of rank to the list of items made illegal in legislation either last year or the year before.

Senate Bill 863 and House Bill 6405 also clarify language of existing law.

Senate Bill 861, An Act Concerning Retirement from Military Service expands eligibility to enlisted members to apply for the next higher rank within state upon retirement. Officers have been eligible to do this for many years, and they were able to make application to the state to be promoted to Brigadier General if they retired as colonel. This bill would allow enlisted people that qualified to apply for state promotion to the next higher grade upon retirement.

House Bill 6406, An Act Concerning Military Support Program seeks to formalize a relationship between Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Child and Family Services, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. By adding the Department of veterans Affairs to existing law we support this.

House Bill 6394, An Act Concerning Military Family Relief Fund, seeks to expand the pool of those eligible to apply for the assistance from the fund. As you heard Russell speak about this earlier, he mentioned that there were 25 applications that were denied because the military member of the family was not still currently deployed. Expanding it would probably have allowed most of those 25

Written Testimony**In regards to Raised Senate Bill 861****Submitted by: Walton Schlechtweg**

Senior Master Sergeant (Retired) CT Air National Guard

Past President of the National Guard Association of CT

To: Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

Thursday, February 19, 2009

Members of the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs, I regret that due to other commitments, I am unable to appear before you today. I do wish to submit comments for your consideration on Raised Senate Bill No. 861, An Act concerning Retirement from Military Service

I support this Bill with the following two exceptions:

As it is currently written there are unequal benefits available to officers and enlisted personnel who retire: I recommend that line no. 6 and 7 as reads: "not less than three years as a commissioned officer or warrant officer," be changed to read: "not less than three years in grade,"

The title of "Sergeant Major" is for pay grade E-9 in the Army National Guard. The Air National Guard's title for pay grade E-9 is "Chief Master Sergeant." I recommend that on line no. 21 that the words "or chief master sergeant" be inserted immediately after "or sergeant major,"

In 1997 Proposed Senate Bill No. 881 was submitted to resolve this inequity but was unsuccessful. (attached)

There many enlisted members of both the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, who have taken the required professional military training, and are assigned in specialties that do not offer any promotion opportunity to the next higher grade. It is only fitting that these dedicated individuals be rewarded with a promotion to the next higher grade

Thank you for your time; I am available to answer any question you have.

Respectfully,



Walton Schlechtweg

860-240-333 / 860-346-4383

e-mail: schlechtw@aol.com

1 Atch: (1997, SB 881)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Proposed Bill No. 881

Page 1

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY

LCO No. 5602

Introduced by SEN. BOZEK, 6th DIST.

General Assembly

January Session, A.D., 1997

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETIREMENT OF ENLISTED PERSONS IN THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE STATE OR THE GOVERNOR'S MILITARY STAFF.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That Part V of Chapter 504 of the general statutes be amended to allow any enlisted person in the armed forces of the state and any enlisted person on the Governor's military staff to be eligible for promotion to the next higher grade at which he served and to retire at such grade, provided such enlisted person has served honorably for a minimum of twenty years.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To address the unequal benefits available to officers and enlisted personnel who retire.

TOP

**National Guard Association of Connecticut
360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT. 06105-3795**

**Testimony to the Veterans Affairs Committee
February 19, 2009**

Good morning to all the members of the Veterans affairs Committee. I am Dennis Oparowski an Army Veteran and a 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran. I still serve today with the Connecticut National Guard and I am also the Co-Legislative chair of (NGACT) The National Guard Association of Connecticut representing all of our members on...

Raised Bill 862 – An act concerning members of the National Guard called to State Active Duty.

Raised Bill 6408 – An act concerning professional liability insurance policies and members of the CT National Guard called to active duty.

SB 860 False representation of military status

SB 861 Retirement from military service

SB 863 Emergency management assistance compact

HB 6409 an act concerning Military Families

Bill 862 - The State depends on dual status military members as first responders to emergencies in our state. The explanation of a dual status technician is this. They are a civil service technician that must be a National Guard member and they must wear the uniform of the branch they serve in. They are the soldiers and airmen you see everyday through out the state. The State also depends on traditional Guard members (the one weekend a month and two weeks out of the year people) that can be immediately contacted also to respond. When this happens, whatever job or status they were in is suspended. They now assume the daily military pay of the rank they are wearing. In very few cases it is more but in others it is less than their current paycheck. This bill if passed will not solve the whole problem, but it will help balance the scales a bit.

An example is the rank of a specialist or corporal, commonly called an E-4. An enlisted individual with six years of service who's daily paycheck if activated is approximately \$74.00 a day. This does not include the daily benefits of an active duty soldier, just what is known as basic pay. The local auto garage down the street charges \$90.00 an hour for service. Call for service on anything in your house and you will pay at least a \$60.00 service call that usually doesn't come with any service. For the soldier, that's \$9.25 an hour, not bad except the day is based on 24 hours not eight. Now when you are activated, plan on at least a twelve hour working day and twelve hours stuck somewhere away from your nice warm bed, hence the 24 hour part, if you catch my drift? So at the twelve hours of work a day mark, that equals about \$6.16 without the four hours of overtime pay. That's less than our minimum wage in this State. When you multiply that dollar figure out for a week or so, some bill at the end of the month has a good chance of not getting paid. Like I said the \$125.00 a day does not solve the entire problem. At this rate it just about equals the daily pay of an active duty specialist (E-4) in the active military that receives the extra incentives like housing and food and so on.

The State of the State is marginal at best we all know that, but the least we can do is when we make the call and activate a Guard member to State active duty we at least guarantee that we pay them a living wage.

Bill 6408 On Professional Liability – This bill is pretty straight forward. If you have professional liability insurance and you are called to active duty for a long period on time such as our two current wars, it is requesting that the members insurance be suspended until relieved from active duty. The rest of the proposed bill explains the procedure to accomplish this. This goes along the same line as having your automobile put into storage and your insurance suspended while called to war.

SB 860 - The False Representation of Military Status - Raised Bill 861 An Act Concerning Retirement From Military Service – and Raised Bill 6409 An Act Concerning Military Families, are three bills before you today requiring some additions and clarification within the wording of these bills already established. They are clear and concise and after you read them I hope you will pass these amendments to them.

Raised Bill 863 An Act Concerning The Emergency Management Assistance Compact – I will concede that this is one of the longer bills to comprehend, and there better people here that will explain the concept to you so I implore you to listen to their explanation. I will say this... it does allow all the States, and territories that decide to participate in this compact the opportunity to share mutual assistance between them during emergencies as declared by the Governor of the state or territory in distress. There have been some recent set-backs in recent disasters with getting help to States and people in need in a timely manner under the present configuration and this Bill if passed should help elevate those situations.

I want to thank you once more for listening to my testimony and would gladly answer any questions to the best of my ability.

Respectfully

Dennis Oparowski
NGACT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

MILITARY DEPARTMENT
 THE WILLIAM A. O'NEILL ARMORY
 360 BROAD STREET
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3795

February 19, 2008

Honorable Andrew M. Maynard
 Honorable Ted C. Graziani
 Chairpersons
 Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs
 Room 509A, Capitol
 Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Senate Bill 860, "An Act Concerning False Representation of Military Status"
Senate Bill 861, "An Act Concerning Retirement from Military Service"
House Bill 6410, "An Act Concerning the Use of Hand-held Mobile Telephones by
 Members of the Armed Forces while Operating a Motor Vehicle"
House Bill 6409, "An Act Concerning the Military Family Relief Fund" (Governor's Bill)

The Connecticut Military Department (CTMD) supports the passage of these four bills. CTMD requested the Select Committee on Veterans Affairs raise these bills as each facilitates equitable and efficient military operations. The bills, once passed into law, would have nominal fiscal impact but would correct weaknesses in the manner in which CTMD currently conducts certain operations. I ask for your favorable consideration and for the passage of these bills.

Senate Bill 860 seeks to correct a technical deficiency in our state "Stolen Valor" statute, a law that criminalizes the unauthorized wear of and claim to military medals and decorations. The bill clarifies that the unauthorized wear or claim to military rank is also a wrongful act. Unfortunately, we have had instances where members of our community pin on medals and rank to which they are not entitled. To members of the armed forces, veterans and patriotic citizens, this behavior is highly offensive, as we know the dedication and sacrifice that is inherent in obtaining rank. This bill ensures that those who wear rank without authorization do so at their own peril and risk prosecution.

Senate Bill 861 clarifies the process an officer of the armed forces of the state must use to request promotion upon retirement. Additionally, it extends the retirement promotion consideration to our enlisted members. The fact that officers can get promoted upon retirement but enlisted members cannot is an inequity that has existed for decades. In the interests of equity, if officers can be promoted into retirement, so should enlisted members. With our lack of authorizations for senior officer and enlisted ranks, many qualified and well deserving members of our armed force cannot be promoted during their military careers. This provision of law would provide some relief to allow a state retirement promotion ("honorary"), without the benefit of receiving the associated compensation or benefits. Such recognition upon promotion for deserving members of the armed forces of Connecticut is merited.



National Guard Association of Connecticut

360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
 www.ngact.com ngact2005@yahoo.com (860) 247-5000

Feb 19, 2009

Testimony in regards to Senate Bills 860, 861, 862 and 863 and House Bills 6405, 6406, 6409, 6410 and 6394

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Graziani and members of the Select Committee on Veterans Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Debbi Newton, Legislative Chair and past-president of the National Guard Association of Connecticut and a 29 year member of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

You have several bills before you today that NGACTION supports, many of which provide clarifications of language in existing statute. Senate Bill 860, An Act Concerning False Representation of Military Status adds the physical display of rank to the list of items made illegal in legislation last year. Senate Bill 863 and House Bill 6405 also clarify language of existing law.

Senate Bill 861, An Act Concerning Retirement from Military Service expands eligibility to enlisted members to apply for the next higher rank upon retirement. Officers have been eligible to do this for many years and can make application to the state to be promoted to the next higher grade, or rank, not to exceed Brigadier General. This bill would allow enlisted people that qualify to apply for state promotion to the next higher grade upon retirement.

House Bill 6406, An Act Concerning the Military Support Program seeks to formalize the relationship between the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department Of Child and Family Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs when providing services to Connecticut Veterans by adding the Department of Veterans Affairs to existing law.

House Bills 6409, An Act Concerning Military Families and 6394, An Act Concerning the Military Family Relief Fund both seek to expand the pool of those eligible to apply for assistance from the Fund.

House Bill 6410, An Act Concerning the use of hand Held Mobile Telephones by members of the Armed Forces while Operating a Motor Vehicle does not give members of the armed services carte blanche to use cell phones and other hand held devices while driving whenever they want to. What it does do is give members of the Armed Forces the flexibility of communications while in an official status. Many times we have emergency