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Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Ann Cummings <ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us>
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Subject: S.227: military contributions to Social Security

Madame Chair,

I wanted to follow up about your question in committee regarding military servicemembers' contributions to Social Security.

Currently, members of the military do contribute to Social Security and have paid Social Security taxes since 1957. However, individuals who served in the military from 1940-1956, including attendance at a service academy, did not pay Social Security taxes. Their records are credited in a way that may help them qualify for Social Security and Medicare or increase the amount of their Social Security benefits. There is a web page and a publication on this issue from the Social Security Administration available here: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf> and <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf>.

With regard to S.227, individuals with military service are already able to benefit from the existing Vermont exemption for Social Security income, as long as they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements under 32 V.S.A. § 5830e.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Abby

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