



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 103

February Session, 2000

Senate Bill No. 558

Senate, March 17, 2000

The Committee on Public Safety reported through SEN. PENN of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning The Soldiers, Sailors And Marines' Fund.

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

1 Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 All money so paid to and received by the American Legion shall be
4 expended by it in furnishing food, wearing apparel, medical or
5 surgical aid or care or relief to, or in bearing the funeral expenses of,
6 soldiers, sailors or marines who [served] performed service in time of
7 war, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, in any branch of the
8 military service of the United States, [between April 6, 1917, and
9 November 11, 1918, or between December 7, 1941, and December 31,
10 1946, all dates inclusive, or served in the Spanish-American War
11 between April 21, 1898, and July 4, 1902, inclusive, and actual
12 participation in hostilities in the Moro Province to July 15, 1903, or any
13 persons who served in the military or naval forces between June 27,
14 1950, and December 31, 1955, both dates inclusive, or who served in

15 the military or naval forces during the Vietnam era, as defined in
16 subsection (a) of section 27-103, or who served in the military or naval
17 forces during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm,
18 August 2, 1990, until the cessation of hostilities as determined by the
19 President of the United States or until a date established by an act of
20 the General Assembly,] or who were engaged in any of the wars
21 waged by the United States during said periods in the forces of any
22 government associated with the United States, who have been
23 honorably discharged therefrom or honorably released from active
24 service therein, and who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at
25 the time of entering said armed forces of the United States or of any
26 such government, or to their spouses who are living with them, or to
27 their widows or widowers who were living with them at the time of
28 death, or dependent children under eighteen years of age, who may be
29 in need of the same. All such payments shall be made by the American
30 Legion under authority of its bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the
31 procedure for proof of eligibility for such aid and shall be approved by
32 the trustee, provided payments made for the care and treatment of any
33 person entitled to the benefits provided for herein, at any hospital
34 receiving aid from the General Assembly unless special care and
35 treatment are required, shall be in accordance with the provisions of
36 section 17b-239, as amended, and provided the sum expended for the
37 care or treatment of such person at any other place than a state-aided
38 hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost of supporting such
39 person at the Veterans' Home and Hospital, unless special care and
40 treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by the
41 treasurer of such organization may be paid therefor. The treasurer of
42 such organization shall account to said trustee during the months of
43 January, April, July and October for all moneys disbursed by it during
44 the three months next preceding the first day of either of said months,
45 and such account shall show the amount of and the name and address
46 of each person to whom such aid has been furnished. Upon the
47 completion of the trust provided for in section 27-138, the principal

48 fund so held by said trustee shall revert to the State Treasury.

PS Committee Vote: Yea 22 Nay 0 JF

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Minimal Cost

Affected Agencies: Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

There will be potential minimal cost for the Soldiers Sailors and Marines' Fund as a result of the passage of this bill. The fund may have to pay out a minimal amount of benefits as the bill extends benefits to more veterans of more wars by adopting the general definition of "wartime Service." The number of veterans this includes is anticipated to be small. This minimal cost can be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of the fund.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 558

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES' FUND**SUMMARY:**

This bill extends benefits from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marine Fund to veterans of more wars by adopting the general definition of "wartime service" currently used to determine eligibility for wartime service benefits. It makes the law conform to practice by requiring that eligible veterans have at least 90 days service, unless they were separated earlier by a service-connected disability or the war or conflict ended sooner.

The fund provides benefits, such as food, clothing, medical and surgical aid, and general care and relief to veterans who served in any branch of the military in specified wars or conflicts. The veteran must have been honorably discharged and been a citizen or resident alien in Connecticut when he entered the service.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS

Under current law, veterans who served in any of the following wars or operations are eligible for benefits:

<i>Service Eligibility</i>	<i>Year</i>
Spanish-American War Participation in the Moro Province	April 21, 1898 to July 4, 1902 Up to July 15, 1903
World War I	April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918
World War II	December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
Korean Hostilities	June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955
Vietnam Era	December 22, 1961 to July 1, 1975

Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm	August 2, 1990 to June 30, 1994
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The bill extends benefits to veterans who served in any of the following wars or operations:

<i>War or Conflict</i>	<i>Date</i>
Philippine insurrection	August 13, 1898 to July 4, 1902
Boxer Rebellion	June 20, 1900 to May 12, 1901
Cuban pacification	September 12, 1906 to April 1, 1909
Nicaraguan campaign	August 28, 1912 to November 2, 1913
Haitian Campaign	July 9, 1915 to December 6, 1915
Punitive expedition into Mexico	March 10, 1916 to April 6, 1917
Service in a combat support role during the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon	September 29, 1982 to March 30, 1984;
Grenada invasion	October 25, 1983 to December 15, 1983
Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the U. S. flag in the Persian Gulf	February 1, 1987 to July 23, 1987
Panama Invasion	December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 22 Nay 0