



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 6627

LCO No. 3080

03080_____VA_

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

Introduced by:

(VA)

**AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS FROM THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS
AND MARINES FUND TO THE FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES SERVING IN COMBAT ZONES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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 (1) soldiers, sailors or marines who performed service in time of war,
7 as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, in any branch of the
8 military service of the United States, including the Connecticut
9 National Guard, or who were engaged in any of the wars waged by the
10 United States during said periods in the forces of any government
11 associated with the United States, who have been honorably
12 discharged therefrom or honorably released from active service
13 therein, and who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at the time
14 of entering said armed forces of the United States, including the
15 Connecticut National Guard, or of any such government, (2) members

16 of the United States Armed Forces, including the reserve components
17 and the Connecticut National Guard, who, at the time of application,
18 are serving in an area designated as a combat zone by the President of
19 the United States or as a qualified hazardous duty area by the
20 Congress of the United States, or (3) to [their] the spouses of the
21 individuals described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this section, who are
22 living with them, or to their widows or widowers who were living
23 with them at the time of death, or dependent children under eighteen
24 years of age, who may be in need of the same. All such payments shall
25 be made by the American Legion under authority of its bylaws, which
26 bylaws shall set forth the procedure for proof of eligibility for such aid
27 and shall be approved by the trustee, provided payments made for the
28 care and treatment of any person entitled to the benefits provided for
29 [herein] in this section, at any hospital receiving aid from the General
30 Assembly unless special care and treatment are required, shall be in
31 accordance with the provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the
32 sum expended for the care or treatment of such person at any other
33 place than a state-aided hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost
34 of supporting such person at the Veterans' Home, unless special care
35 and treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by
36 the treasurer of such organization may be paid therefor. The treasurer
37 of such organization shall account to said trustee during the months of
38 January, April, July and October for all moneys disbursed by it during
39 the three months next preceding the first day of either of said months,
40 and such account shall show the amount of and the name and address
41 of each person to whom such aid has been furnished. Upon the
42 completion of the trust provided for in section 27-138, the principal
43 fund so held by said trustee shall revert to the State Treasury.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-140

Statement of Purpose:

To help meet the immediate needs of the families of Connecticut Reserve and National Guard members who are serving in Iraq or in the "War on Terrorism" in a cost-effective and substantively effective way by expanding eligibility for relief from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which has more than \$59 million in funds.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]