



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Raised Bill No. 1007**

LCO No. 2842

\*02842\_\_\_\_\_VA\_\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

Introduced by:

(VA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF "ARMED FORCES" AND "SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR" AND REQUIRING REPORTS ON VETERANS' BENEFITS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as  
5 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,  
6 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve  
7 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard; (2)  
8 "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or released  
9 under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces;  
10 (3) "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more  
11 consecutive days except, if the period of war [, campaign or other  
12 operation] lasted less than ninety days, "service in time of war" means  
13 service for the entire [duration of the] period of war, [campaign or  
14 other operation,] unless separated from service earlier because of a  
15 service-connected disability rated by the Veterans' Administration; [,

16 during a] and (4) "period of war" means period of war, as defined in 38  
17 USC 101, as amended, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period  
18 beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all  
19 cases; and "period of war" [shall include] includes service while  
20 engaged in combat or a combat support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958,  
21 to November 1, 1958, or September 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984;  
22 Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15, 1983; Operation Earnest  
23 Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the United  
24 States flag in the Persian Gulf, February 1, 1987, to July 23, 1987; and  
25 Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990, and [shall include]  
26 includes service during such periods with the armed forces of any  
27 government associated with the United States.

28       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) Not later than February  
29 15, 2006, and annually thereafter, each state agency or municipality  
30 that provides benefits to veterans, as defined in section 27-103 of the  
31 general statutes, as amended by this act, shall submit a report to the  
32 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs that includes a description of the  
33 type of benefit provided to veterans, the value of such benefit and the  
34 number of veterans to whom such benefit was provided for the  
35 previous twelve-month period beginning January first and ending  
36 December thirty-first. Said commissioner shall compile the data in  
37 such reports.

38       (b) Not later than April 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the  
39 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs shall submit a report, in accordance  
40 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, of the data compiled  
41 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Military Department,  
42 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
43 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and the select  
44 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
45 relating to veterans' affairs. Such report shall specify the number of  
46 veterans receiving benefits and the value of such benefits by category  
47 of benefit and in total for the previous twelve-month period beginning  
48 January first and ending December thirty-first.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-103(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To add military reserves, including the Connecticut National Guard, to the definition of "armed forces", require that the ninety days of service required to qualify as "service in time of war" be ninety consecutive days, require every state agency and municipality that provides benefits to veterans to report on those benefits to the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs and require said commissioner to compile the information in those reports into a consolidated report.

*[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.]*