



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 63

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 6952

House of Representatives, March 15, 2007

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-122b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) As used in this section, [:(1) "Armed forces" includes the United
4 States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard or any
5 women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized pursuant to an Act of
6 Congress; and (2)] "veteran" means any person (1) honorably
7 discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from, active
8 service in the [armed forces] United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
9 Air Force or Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof,
10 organized pursuant to an Act of Congress; (2) who has completed at
11 least twenty years of service with the Connecticut National Guard; or
12 (3) who was killed in action, or who died as a result of accident or
13 illness sustained while performing active service, with the Connecticut
14 National Guard.

15 (b) (1) Any veteran may, by letter or other communication
 16 addressed to the commissioner, or by will, request that upon his or her
 17 death his or her body be buried in [said] a veterans' cemetery
 18 established pursuant to section 27-122a, or (2) the spouse or other next
 19 of kin may apply to the commissioner to have the body of such veteran
 20 buried in said veterans' cemetery, and in either case such request shall
 21 be granted.

22 (c) The spouse of any veteran shall, upon similar request or
 23 application made to the commissioner, be buried in said veterans'
 24 cemetery provided only one such request or application shall be
 25 granted.

26 (d) The commissioner shall designate an area in said veterans'
 27 cemetery for veterans who, for religious reasons, require burial in a
 28 consecrated area.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	27-122b

VA *Joint Favorable C/R* PS
PS *Joint Favorable*

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Department of Veterans' Affairs	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands eligibility for burial in a state veterans' cemetery. A potential cost may incur over the next biennium but it is unknown how many Connecticut National Guard members this would apply to and of those how many will actually request burial in a state veterans' cemetery.

Currently, the veterans' state cemetery in Middletown has space for over 10,000 plots and the Rocky Hill site has space for an estimated 3,000 plots. The department staff provides maintenance for both cemeteries. In addition, the department contracts for interment services. There are on average 283 burials a year on site that require the contractual services (opening and closing of graves) at an average cost of \$365 per burial.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6952*****AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands eligibility for burial in any state veterans' cemetery to include any Connecticut National Guard member who completed at least 20 years of service or who was killed in action or died as a result of an accident or illness sustained while on active service in the guard. Under current law, any veteran honorably discharged from active service is eligible, as is one spouse of any such veteran.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/01/2007)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/06/2007)