



# House of Representatives

**File No. 479**

General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**(Reprint of File No. 63)**

House Bill No. 6952  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 13, 2007

**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 Section 27-122b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 in the Connecticut National Guard; or (3)  
12 who was killed in action, or who died as a result of accident or illness  
13 sustained while performing active service, in the United States Army,  
14 Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard or any women's  
15 auxiliary branch thereof, organized pursuant to an Act of Congress, or

16 in the Connecticut National Guard.

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

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

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

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

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 as amended expands eligibility for burial in a state veterans' cemetery. A potential cost may incur over the next biennium but it is unknown how many of the expanded population 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.

House "A" will not change the fiscal impact identified in the underlying bill.

**The Out Years**

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

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6952 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the number of people eligible for burial in Connecticut veterans' cemeteries. Current law limits such burial to veterans honorably discharged or released from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and any women's auxiliary branch). This includes (although not explicitly stated) veterans killed in action or who died as a result of an accident sustained while performing active service in the forces. This bill explicitly adds these veterans.

The bill extends eligibility to any Connecticut National Guard member (1) who completed at least 20 years of guard service or (2) who was killed in action or died as a result of an accident or illness sustained while performing active service in the guard.

The new provisions appear to apply irrespective of whether the member was honorably or dishonorably discharged or released.

By law and the bill, one spouse of any qualified party is also eligible for burial in any of the cemeteries.

\*House Amendment "A" explicitly adds veterans killed in action or who die as a result of an accident or illness sustained performing active service.

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)