



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 334

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 7167

House of Representatives, April 4, 2007

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. STONE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-88b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) (1) Notwithstanding section 19a-14 or any other provision of the
4 general statutes relating to continuing education or refresher training,
5 the Department of Public Health shall renew a license, certificate,
6 permit or registration issued to an individual pursuant to chapters
7 368d, 368v, 371 to 378, inclusive, 379a to 388, inclusive, 393a, 395, 398,
8 399, 400a and 400c that becomes void pursuant to section 19a-88 or
9 19a-195b while the holder of the license, certificate, permit or
10 registration is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States,
11 or such holder is a member of the National Guard ordered out by the
12 Governor for military service, not later than [six months] one year
13 from the date of discharge from active duty or ordered military

14 service, upon completion of any continuing education or refresher
15 training required to renew a license, certificate, registration or permit
16 that has not become void pursuant to section 19a-88 or 19a-195b. A
17 licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to this [section]
18 subdivision shall submit an application on a form prescribed by the
19 department and other such documentation as may be required by the
20 department.

21 (2) Notwithstanding section 19a-14 or any other provisions of the
22 general statutes relating to continuing education, the Department of
23 Public Health shall renew a license issued to an individual pursuant to
24 chapter 370 that becomes void pursuant to section 19a-88 while the
25 holder of the license is on active duty in the armed forces of the United
26 States, not later than one year from the date of discharge from active
27 duty, upon completion of twenty-five contact hours of continuing
28 education that meet the criteria set forth in subsection (b) of section 20-
29 10b. A licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to this
30 subdivision shall submit an application on a form prescribed by the
31 department and other such documentation as may be required by the
32 department.

33 (3) Notwithstanding section 19a-14 or any other provision of the
34 general statutes relating to continuing education, the Department of
35 Public Health shall renew a license issued to an individual pursuant to
36 chapter 379 that becomes void pursuant to section 19a-88 while the
37 holder of the license is on active duty in the armed forces of the United
38 States, not later than one year from the date of discharge from active
39 duty, upon completion of twelve contact hours of continuing
40 education that meet the criteria set forth in subsection (b) of section 20-
41 126c. A licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to this
42 subdivision shall submit an application on a form prescribed by the
43 department and other such documentation as may be required by the
44 department.

45 (4) Notwithstanding section 19a-14 or any other provision of the
46 general statutes relating to continuing education, the Department of

47 Public Health shall renew a license issued to an individual pursuant to
48 chapter 381a that becomes void pursuant to section 19a-88 while the
49 holder of the license is on active duty in the armed forces of the United
50 States, not later than one year from the date of discharge from active
51 duty, upon completion of six contact hours of continuing education
52 that meet the criteria set forth in section 20-162r. A licensee applying
53 for license renewal pursuant to this subdivision shall submit an
54 application on a form prescribed by the department and other such
55 documentation as may be required by the department.

56 (b) The provisions of this section [do] shall not apply to reservists or
57 National Guard members on active duty for annual training that is a
58 regularly scheduled obligation for reservists or members of the
59 National Guard for training that is not a part of mobilization.

60 (c) No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant (1)
61 against whom professional disciplinary action is pending, or (2) who is
62 the subject of an unresolved complaint.

63 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) Notwithstanding any
64 provision of the general statutes, each executive branch agency,
65 department, board, commission or official, other than the Department
66 of Public Health, responsible for the issuance of a license, certificate,
67 permit or registration required by the general statutes for the practice
68 of a profession shall renew the license, certificate, permit or
69 registration issued to an individual which expires while the individual
70 is (1) on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, or (2) a
71 member of the National Guard when ordered out by the Governor for
72 military service. Such renewal shall be valid for a period of one year
73 from the date of such individual's discharge from active duty or
74 ordered military service, or until the date the individual successfully
75 renews the license in accordance with this section and the general
76 statutes, whichever occurs first. Such individual applying for renewal
77 of a license, certificate, permit or registration shall submit to the
78 agency, department, board, commission or official such documentation
79 as may be required by such agency, department, board, commission or

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 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Revenue Gain	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Various state agencies¹ will experience a potential minimal revenue gain to the extent that persons who might otherwise not renew a license, certificate, permit or registration do so given passage of this bill. The revenue gain would be associated with the payment of renewal fees by members of the armed forces who are on active duty, or National Guard members ordered out by the Governor for military service who may otherwise allow their license, certificate, permit or registration to expire.

The State Department of Education issues licenses and certificates in periods greater than one year and would have to rework their teacher certification system to accommodate the one-year provisions of the bill.

It is anticipated that the other various agencies will be able to implement this policy change within their normally budgeted resources.

The Out Years

¹ Departments of Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection, Education, Public Health; Board of Accountancy.

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$	FY 12 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Revenue Gain	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 7167*****AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill extends the grace period during which U.S. Armed Forces members discharged from active duty may renew certain Department of Public Health (DPH) credentials that lapsed while they served on active duty, from six months to one year after discharge. It establishes this same benefit for guard members whose credentials lapsed while they were performing military service ordered by the governor. Under existing law, U.S. Armed Forces members discharged from active duty already get this benefit for four types of DPH licenses: dentistry, medicine, surgery, or respiratory care. The bill does not extend the benefit for these licensees to guard members serving under the governor's call.

The bill also establishes the same one-year grace period during which U.S. Armed Forces members and guard members may renew a professional credential from a non-DPH executive branch agency, department, board, commission, or official that lapsed while they were on active duty or military service ordered by the governor. The applicants must submit to the applicable entity or official any documentation required for renewing the license.

As under existing law, the bill does not apply to reservists or guard members on active duty for annual training that is a regularly scheduled obligation and not part of mobilization.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

CREDENTIALS

The credentials the bill covers are licenses, certificates, permits, and registrations.

The DPH credentials affected are as follows:

1. emergency medical service;
2. chiropractor;
3. naturepathy;
4. medical examining board;
5. podiatrist;
6. athletic trainer;
7. physical therapist;
8. occupational therapist;
9. substance abuse counselor;
10. radiographer and radiologic technologist;
11. midwifery;
12. nursing;
13. dental hygienist;
14. optometrist;
15. optician;
16. respiratory care practitioner;
17. perfusionist;
18. pharmacist;

19. psychologist;
20. marital and family therapist;
21. clinical social worker;
22. professional counselor;
23. veterinarian;
24. massage therapist;
25. dietitian-nutritionist;
26. acupuncturist;
27. paramedic;
28. embalmer and funeral director;
29. barber;
30. hairdresser and cosmetician;
31. electrologist;
32. subsurface sewage disposal system installer;
33. sanitarian;
34. hearing instrument specialist;
35. speech and language pathologist and audiologist;
36. asbestos contractor, consultant, and worker; and
37. lead abatement consultant, contractor, and worker.

Both the law and the bill cover health care institutions, but the legal effect of this coverage is unclear because individuals, not institutions, serve in the armed forces. The bill does not cover the license for nurses aides (CGS § 20-102aa et. seq.).

By law, applicants must complete any required continuing education or refresher training and submit the application and any other required documentation to DPH.

BACKGROUND

Current License Restoration Standards

DPH may restore, for free, a hairdressing or cosmetology license that expired while the holder was in the armed services (CGS § 20-256).

Professional engineers and land surveyors are not required to pay renewal fees to maintain their licenses while in the armed forces (CGS § 20-306(a)(3)).

DPH may reinstate, without an examination, the license of a veteran whose embalmer and funeral director's license expired while he was in the service, provided DPH approves the applicant's professional qualifications. He must apply within a year of separation (CGS § 20-228).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
 Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/01/2007)

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable
 Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/14/2007)