



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Substitute Bill No. 5544**

\* HB05544VA\_PD\_022908 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING VETERANS' BENEFITS AND THE MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Veterans'  
2 Affairs shall study the feasibility of increasing veterans' benefits and  
3 make recommendations concerning such benefits. The commissioner  
4 shall submit a report on or before January 1, 2009, to the select  
5 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
6 relating to veterans, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
7 of the general statutes.

8 Sec. 2. Section 7-436b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
9 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

10 (a) Any member of fund B of the municipal employees' retirement  
11 system, who, prior to such member's date of employment with a  
12 municipality that is participating in said fund B, served in any branch  
13 of the armed forces of the United States during the times set forth in  
14 section 27-103 shall be credited with the period of such service to the  
15 extent that such member makes contributions to said fund for all or  
16 any part of the period of such service, except that any veteran who  
17 becomes a member on or after October 1, 1984, shall not receive credit  
18 for such war service if such member has received or is entitled to  
19 receive any retirement allowance for the same years of service from the

20 federal government. Such contributions shall be computed at a rate of  
21 two per cent of such member's first year's salary as such employee,  
22 with interest at five per cent per annum, payable within one year of  
23 such employment, or on or before January 1, [1992] 2009, whichever is  
24 later, provided such contributions are made prior to the date of  
25 retirement. The period of such service for which contributions to said  
26 fund are made shall be counted for the purpose of computing the  
27 amount of such member's retirement allowance, provided such  
28 member shall have completed five years of continuous service or  
29 fifteen years of active aggregate service with a participating  
30 municipality or shall be retired prior thereto due to disability incurred  
31 in the course of employment. Any member who purchases credit  
32 pursuant to this section and who later receives a retirement allowance  
33 for permanent and total disability under this part shall, upon written  
34 request, be refunded all such contributions paid under this section,  
35 provided such military service credit did not serve to increase the  
36 amount of disability retirement benefits for which such member was  
37 eligible.

38 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
39 the municipal employer of any member who applies on or after July 1,  
40 1986, for such military service credit shall pay all contributions  
41 required under said subsection which are attributable to that portion  
42 of the member's military service time during which he was a prisoner  
43 of war, provided such member submits with his application for such  
44 credit sufficient proof from the Veterans' Administration of the United  
45 States that he is a former prisoner of war. Any municipal employer  
46 which pays the contributions required under this subsection for a  
47 member who later receives a retirement allowance for permanent and  
48 total disability under this part shall, upon its written request, be  
49 refunded all such contributions paid under this subsection, provided  
50 such military service credit did not serve to increase the amount of  
51 disability retirement benefits for which the member was eligible.

52 Sec. 3. Section 10a-162a of the general statutes is repealed and the

53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

54     (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, in consultation  
 55 with the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Commissioner  
 56 of Public Health, shall administer a scholarship program for nursing  
 57 education within the state and shall establish a program for the  
 58 forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for nursing  
 59 education within the state. The loans shall be forgiven if the resident  
 60 remains in the nursing field in Connecticut for five years. For purposes  
 61 of this section, "nursing education" includes any program of study and  
 62 courses taken to enter or to advance in the profession or to upgrade  
 63 knowledge and skills. The board of governors, in consultation with the  
 64 State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Commissioner of Public  
 65 Health, shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of  
 66 chapter 54 to establish procedures to administer the scholarship  
 67 program for nursing education and the program for the forgiveness of  
 68 loans provided by the state to residents for nursing education.

69     (b) Any veteran who served in Iraq or Afghanistan who was a  
 70 provider of medical services as part of his duty and training shall be  
 71 eligible for the scholarship program or loan forgiveness as provided in  
 72 subsection (a) of this section, provided any such veteran pursues a  
 73 degree in nursing education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	7-436b
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10a-162a

**VA**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

**PD**