



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 307

February Session, 2008

* SB00307VA_APP030408 *

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF VETERANS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs in conjunction with the
4 Adjutant General shall award a ribbon and medal to each veteran who
5 served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
6 and who either (1) was a resident of this state at the time he or she was
7 called to active duty for such service, or (2) is domiciled in this state on
8 the date of such award. The commissioner in conjunction with the
9 Adjutant General shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
10 54, setting forth the process for designing the ribbon and medal,
11 identifying veterans who are eligible for the ribbon and medal under
12 this section and establishing procedures for distributing the ribbon and
13 medal to each eligible veteran. The cost of the ribbons and medals shall
14 be paid from the funds appropriated to the military assistance account
15 within the Military Department. [Awards] On or after July 1, 2005,
16 awards under this section may [not] be made posthumously.

17 Sec. 2. Section 27-108 of the general statutes is repealed and the
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

19 (a) Any veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and

20 who meets active military, naval or air service requirements, as
21 defined by 38 USC 101, may apply for admission to the home; and any
22 such veteran who, from disease, wounds or accident, needs medical or
23 surgical care and treatment or who has become mentally ill and who
24 has no adequate means of support, may be admitted to any hospital
25 and receive necessary food, clothing, care and treatment therein, at the
26 expense of the state, unless other funds or means of payment are
27 available.

28 (b) Any member or former member of the armed forces, as defined
29 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who is a resident of this state and is
30 entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, may apply for
31 admission to the home.

32 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Any such veteran desiring care or treatment under the
33 provisions of this chapter shall make application under oath to the
34 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs; but, if, by reason of his or her
35 physical condition, he or she is unable to make such application, some
36 other veteran may make such application in his or her behalf. Said
37 commissioner, or his or her designee, shall have sole power to
38 determine whether such veteran is entitled to admission to the home
39 or to a hospital, and such veteran, if admitted, may, upon application
40 to the commissioner, receive transportation at the expense of the state
41 from his or her place of residence to the home or such hospital. No
42 veteran so admitted shall be discharged from the home except upon
43 the approval of the commissioner or his or her designee. The
44 commissioner shall have sole power to remove any veteran whose care
45 and treatment is paid for by the state from any hospital to another and
46 shall appoint such agents as are necessary to see that veterans
47 admitted to hospitals are receiving necessary food, clothing, care and
48 treatment.

49 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Such veterans who are able to pay in whole or in part for
50 such program or services, as determined by the applicable fee schedule
51 adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 27-102/ of the 2008
52 supplement to the general statutes, shall receive a monthly bill for such

53 services rendered.

54 [(d)] (e) In the event that a bill of a veteran remains unpaid and past
55 due, the chief fiscal officer, with the approval of the commissioner,
56 shall require the veteran to assign his or her right to receive payment
57 of income, from whatever source, to the commissioner until (1) such
58 account is made current, and (2) the veteran demonstrates to the
59 satisfaction of the commissioner a reasonable likelihood of more
60 prudent financial management for the future. Any veteran shall be
61 provided an opportunity for a hearing when an order of assignment is
62 issued.

63 [(e)] (f) Payment of amounts determined by the commissioner as
64 provided by subsection (c) of this section shall be deposited in the
65 institutional general welfare fund of the Veterans' Home established in
66 accordance with sections 4-56 to 4-58, inclusive, and shall be available
67 for expenditure from said fund for the operation of the Veterans'
68 Home in accordance with procedures prescribed by the commissioner
69 and the Comptroller.

70 [(f)] (g) In the event that a veteran dies, still owing money for
71 services rendered, the commissioner, with the aid of the Attorney
72 General's office, may submit a claim against such veteran's estate and
73 any amounts collected shall be deposited in the institutional general
74 welfare fund in accordance with section 4-56.

75 Sec. 3. Section 27-122b of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes
76 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
77 *1, 2008*):

78 (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means any person (1)
79 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
80 from, active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
81 Air Force or Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof,
82 organized pursuant to an Act of Congress; (2) who has completed at
83 least twenty years of service in the Connecticut National Guard; or (3)

84 who was killed in action, or who died as a result of accident or illness
85 sustained while performing active service, in the United States Army,
86 Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard or any women's
87 auxiliary branch thereof, organized pursuant to an Act of Congress, or
88 in the Connecticut National Guard.

89 (b) (1) Any veteran may, by letter or other communication
90 addressed to the commissioner, or by will, request that upon his or her
91 death his or her body be buried in a veterans' cemetery established
92 pursuant to section 27-122a, or (2) the spouse or other next of kin may
93 apply to the commissioner to have the body of such veteran buried in
94 said veterans' cemetery, and in either case such request shall be
95 granted.

96 (c) (1) Any member or former member of the armed forces, as
97 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who is a resident of this
98 state and is entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, or
99 would have been entitled to retirement pay under said chapter, but for
100 the fact that the person is under sixty years of age, may by letter or
101 other communication addressed to the commissioner, or by will,
102 request that his or her body will be buried in said veterans' cemetery,
103 or (2) the spouse or other next of kin may apply to the commissioner to
104 have the body of such veteran buried in said veterans' cemetery, and,
105 in either case, such request shall be granted.

106 [(c)] (d) The spouse of any veteran shall, upon similar request or
107 application made to the commissioner, be buried in said veterans'
108 cemetery provided only one such request or application shall be
109 granted.

110 [(d)] (e) The commissioner shall designate an area in said veterans'
111 cemetery for veterans who, for religious reasons, require burial in a
112 consecrated area.

113 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Adjutant General shall issue
114 an achievement ribbon to the soldier, airman and noncommissioned

115 officer of the year in the Connecticut National Guard.

116 Sec. 5. Section 27-61a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes
117 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
118 *1, 2008*):

119 (a) As used in this section, "eligible member or veteran" means a
120 member or former member of the United States Army, Navy, Marine
121 Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve component thereof,
122 and a member or former member of the Connecticut National Guard
123 who (1) is or was called to active service on or after September 11,
124 2001, (2) is or was in such active service for at least ninety consecutive
125 days, and (3) if discharged, is or was honorably discharged or
126 discharged for injuries sustained in the line of duty.

127 (b) (1) On and after July 1, 2005, the Adjutant General shall pay each
128 eligible member or veteran the amount of fifty dollars for each month
129 or major part thereof of active service by such eligible member or
130 veteran on or after September 11, 2001. On and before June 30, 2007,
131 the maximum payment to any eligible member or veteran shall not
132 exceed five hundred dollars.

133 (2) On and after July 1, 2007, the maximum payment to any eligible
134 member or veteran under this subsection shall not exceed five hundred
135 dollars, except that such maximum payment shall not exceed one
136 thousand two hundred dollars if, during such active service, such
137 eligible member or veteran is or was deployed to an area designated as
138 a combat zone by the President of the United States.

139 (3) No payment shall be made under this subsection to any eligible
140 member or veteran who makes application for such payment later than
141 three years after the date of the cessation of such operations in which
142 such member or veteran served.

143 (c) The Adjutant General, in consultation with the Commissioner of
144 Veterans' Affairs, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
145 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

146 Such regulations shall include procedures for verification of eligibility
147 of an eligible member or veteran and for the application for and
148 payment of the amounts specified in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-73e
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	27-108
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	27-122b
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	27-61a

VA

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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