



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 826

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 5664

House of Representatives, April 29, 2009

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. GERAGOSIAN of the 25th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF RIBBONS AND MEDALS TO VETERANS FOR SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR.

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 Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the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. [On or after July 1, 2005, awards]
16 Within existing budgetary resources, awards under this section may be
17 made posthumously for veterans who died on or after January 1, 2000.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-73e

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Department of Veterans' Affairs	GF - Cost	29,300	30,300
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits) ¹	GF - Cost	5,000	5,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands, within existing budgetary resources, veterans' service medal eligibility to any veteran deceased as of January 1, 2000 and domiciled in the state at the time he or she was called to active duty. This would result in an estimated cost of \$34,300 in FY 10 and \$35,300 in FY 11.

One full-time Clerk and one part-time Office Assistant within the Department of Veterans' Affairs currently administer a service medal program for the 221,058 active service veterans estimated to be eligible for such medals under current law. A total of 7,804 medals were awarded in FY 08 and it is projected that 10,300 will be awarded in FY 09. Salary, printing, mailing, and equipment costs associated with the program totaled \$85,000 in FY 08 and are anticipated to total \$108,000

¹ The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller on an actual cost basis. The following is provided for estimated costs associated with additional personnel. The estimated non-pension fringe benefit rate as a percentage of payroll is 25.43%. Fringe benefit costs for new positions do not initially include pension costs as the state's pension contribution is based upon the 6/30/08 actuarial valuation for the State Employees Retirement System (SERS) which certifies the contribution for FY 10 and FY 11. Therefore, new positions will not impact the state's pension contribution until FY 12 after the next scheduled certification on 6/30/2010.

in FY 09.

There are an estimated 39,042 deceased veterans that would meet eligibility requirements under the bill. Assuming a similar percentage of medals are awarded to these veterans as are awarded under current law, this would result in an additional 2,846 and 3,756 awards made in FY 10 and FY 11, respectively. Implementation would require one additional part-time Office Assistant at a cost of \$24,400 in FY 10 and \$25,200 in FY 11, including fringe benefit costs. An additional \$9,900 and \$10,100 associated with printing and mailing costs would also be required in FY 10 and FY 11, respectively.

The bill specifies that the Department of Veterans' Affairs implement the provisions of the bill within existing budgetary resources. With passage of the bill, the agency would either (1) re-allocate existing funding for this purpose from another program; (2) incur additional costs; or (3) delay or not implement this program due to lack of funding.

The Out Years

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

Sources: United States Department of Veterans Affairs

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5664*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF RIBBONS AND MEDALS TO VETERANS FOR SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill removes an apparent ambiguity concerning posthumous awards of war service ribbons and medals to eligible veterans.

By law, the veterans' affairs commissioner, in conjunction with the adjutant general, must award a ribbon and medal to any wartime veteran who lived in Connecticut when called to active duty or is living in Connecticut when the award is made. On or after July 1, 2005, current law allows posthumous awards. But it is unclear whether this means (1) posthumous awards may be made for veterans who died on or after July 1, 2005 or (2) posthumous awards may be made on or after this date, irrespective of the date when the veteran died. The bill eliminates the 2005 date and instead (1) limits posthumous awards to veterans who died on or after January 1, 2000 and (2) requires posthumous awards to be made within existing budgetary resources. By law, the cost of the ribbons and medals is paid from funds appropriated to the Military Department's military assistance account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

On March 31, the House referred the bill (File 154) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute bill limiting the posthumous awards to veterans who die on or after January 1, 2000 and requiring awards to be made within the existing budget.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/05/2009)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/10/2009)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 54 Nay 0 (04/15/2009)