



# House of Representatives

**File No. 924**

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**(Reprint of File Nos. 154 and 826)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5664  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 8, 2009

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF RIBBONS AND MEDALS TO VETERANS FOR SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR AND CONCERNING FUNERAL HONOR GUARDS FOR DECEASED STATE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

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 Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.

18 Sec. 2. Section 3-2b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

20 The Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs shall cause to be erected at  
 21 the grave of any person who has served as Governor, Lieutenant  
 22 Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney  
 23 General or member of the General Assembly of this state and who died  
 24 or dies subsequent to January 1, 1971, a footstone, marked with the  
 25 seal of the state, the name of the deceased, the date of his death and the  
 26 office or offices in which he served and the dates such service was  
 27 rendered. The commissioner shall also provide for such grave a flag  
 28 holder and a Connecticut state flag. At the request of the next of kin of  
 29 any such [officer or member of the General Assembly] Governor,  
 30 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or  
 31 Attorney General, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall provide an  
 32 honor guard of six state policemen to attend the funeral and burial of  
 33 such officer. [or member.] At the request of the next of kin of any such  
 34 member of the General Assembly, the executive director of the Joint  
 35 Committee on Legislative Management shall direct the chief of police  
 36 of the Office of State Capitol Police to provide an honor guard of State  
 37 Capitol police officers to attend the funeral and burial of such member.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-73e
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	3-2b

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) <sup>1</sup>	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.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that the Commissioner of Public Safety, upon request, provide a six-member State Police funeral honor guard for a deceased legislator, and transfers that responsibility to the State Capitol Police. This transfer does not result in any net fiscal impact to the state.

One full-time Clerk and one part-time Office Assistant within the

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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 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.

House "A" adds the honor guard provision and does not result in any fiscal impact.

### ***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*

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5664 (as amended by House "A")\******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.

The bill also eliminates the duty of the public safety commissioner to provide a six-member, state police funeral honor guard for a legislator whose next of kin requests it. It, instead, requires the Legislative Management executive director to direct the State Capitol Police to provide a capitol police honor guard. The bill, unlike current law, does not specify the number of officers.

\*House Amendment "A" adds the honor guard provision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**AWARD OF MEDALS AND RIBBONS**

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.

**BACKGROUND**

***Legislative History***

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)