



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 369

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5388

House of Representatives, April 7, 2010

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS AND BILINGUAL SERVICE OFFICERS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Veterans'
2 Affairs shall conduct a study of homeless female veterans in the state.
3 The study shall include an analysis of the number of such veterans and
4 information regarding shelter options and resources for such veterans.
5 Not later than January 1, 2011, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs
6 shall report the department's findings to the select committee of the
7 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
8 affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
9 general statutes.

10 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 27-102l of the general statutes is
11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
12 *passage*):

13 (b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer a

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 11 \$	FY 12 \$
Department of Veterans' Affairs	GF - Cost	7,500	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to conduct a study on homeless female veterans. This would result in an estimated cost of \$7,500 to the DVA.

The bill also requires two service officers in the DVA's Office of Advocacy and Assistance to be bilingual in English and Spanish. This requirement will have no fiscal impact as the Office currently employees two bilingual service officers.

The Out Years

There is no fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5388

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS AND BILINGUAL SERVICE OFFICERS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the state Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct a study of homeless female veterans in Connecticut. The study must include an analysis of the number of such veterans and information on shelter options and resources available to them. The commissioner must report the findings to the Veterans' Committee by January 1, 2011.

The bill requires that at least two, instead of one, of the six veterans service officers (VSO) in the Veterans' Advocacy and Assistance Unit be proficient in both English and Spanish. The requirement takes effect on the next opening of a VSO position after June 30, 2010.

The Advocacy and Assistance Unit is responsible for helping veterans and their eligible spouses and dependents obtain veterans' benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 8 Nay 2 (03/11/2010)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 18 Nay 1 (03/23/2010)