AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDRAISING BY VETERANS’ ORGANIZATIONS.

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

Section 1. Section 27-100f of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) On or before July 1, 2012, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall publish on the department's Internet web site an informational page listing any benefits, services or programs offered to veterans or their families by any state or federal agency, department or institution. The department shall maintain the informational page after said date and shall update the informational page annually. The department shall publish on the informational page any information concerning the eligibility requirements and application process for such benefits, services or programs, the name and contact information of any entity offering such benefits, services or programs, and a link to the Internet web site for such entity.

(b) On or before July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, or the commissioner's designee, shall, within available funds and in consultation with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, publish a list of preferred charitable nonprofit corporations, incorporated pursuant to chapter 602 or any predecessor statutes thereto, who hold...
themselves out to be established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy purpose relating to or on behalf of veterans. Nonprofit corporations may apply to the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs for inclusion on the list by submitting information regarding their nonprofit activities to the Department of Veterans' Affairs on a form prescribed by the commissioner and any additional information the commissioner deems necessary to determine whether a nonprofit corporation should be included on the list. In compiling the list, said commissioners shall consider the following, including, but not limited to: (1) Charity accountability standards; (2) the ratio of charitable activity expenditures to fundraising and administrative expenditures; (3) violations of chapter 419d and regulations established pursuant to chapter 419d; and (4) any information provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs by the nonprofit corporation. The list shall be published on the informational Internet web site established in this section and shall bear a disclaimer as follows: "This list is prepared for the public solely for the purpose of information. The state of Connecticut provides no warranty about the content or accuracy of the content herein."

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) No person, firm or corporation shall hold itself out to be a veterans' charitable organization and, with the intent to defraud another, solicit charitable contributions to inure to the benefit or profit of any person, firm or corporation other than the veterans' charitable organization. For the purpose of this section, "veterans' charitable organization" means any person who is or holds itself out to be established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy purpose relating to or on behalf of veterans.

(b) Any person, firm or corporation that violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.
This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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VA  Joint Favorable Subst. C/R  CE
CE  Joint Favorable C/R  JUD