



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5298**

February Session, 2012

\*        HB05298JUD        040212        \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDRAISING BY VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS.**

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

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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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

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

15       (b) On or before July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs,  
16 or the commissioner's designee, shall, within available funds and in  
17 consultation with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, publish a  
18 list of preferred charitable nonprofit corporations, incorporated  
19 pursuant to chapter 602 or any predecessor statutes thereto, that hold

20 themselves out to be established for any benevolent, educational,  
21 philanthropic, humane, scientific, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy  
22 purpose relating to or on behalf of veterans. Nonprofit corporations  
23 may apply to the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs for inclusion on  
24 the list by submitting information regarding their nonprofit activities  
25 to the Department of Veterans' Affairs on a form prescribed by the  
26 commissioner and any additional information the commissioner  
27 deems necessary to determine whether a nonprofit corporation should  
28 be included on the list. In compiling the list, said commissioners shall  
29 consider the following, including, but not limited to: (1) Charity  
30 accountability standards; (2) the ratio of charitable activity  
31 expenditures to fundraising and administrative expenditures; (3)  
32 violations of chapter 419d and regulations established pursuant to  
33 chapter 419d; and (4) any information provided to the Department of  
34 Veterans' Affairs by the nonprofit corporation. The list shall be  
35 published on the informational Internet web site page established in  
36 subsection (a) of this section and shall bear a disclaimer as follows:  
37 "This list is prepared for the public solely for the purpose of  
38 information. The state of Connecticut provides no warranty about the  
39 content or accuracy of the content herein."

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

50       (b) Any person, firm or corporation that violates any provision of  
51 subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

