



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 26

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6348

House of Representatives, March 5, 2013

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE MILITARY SERVICE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-61 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) As used in this part:

4 (1) "Member of the armed forces of the state" means a member of the
5 organized militia, the National Guard, or the naval militia and the
6 marine corps branch of the naval militia, and includes any retired
7 member thereof who is detailed from the retired list in accordance
8 with section 27-54; and

9 (2) "Military duty" means the performance of military service by a
10 member of the armed forces of the state pursuant to competent state
11 military orders, whether paid or unpaid for such military service,
12 including training, performance of emergency response missions and
13 traveling directly to or returning directly from the location of such

14 military service.

15 (b) For military [service] duty when ordered out by the Governor,
16 except when federal pay has been authorized, each [commissioned
17 officer, warrant officer and enlisted person] member of the armed
18 forces of the state assigned to a federally recognized National Guard
19 unit in Connecticut shall be paid at the same rate, including longevity
20 pay and allowances, as would be authorized if ordered out by federal
21 authority. [but such rate shall be increased by the amount of ten
22 dollars for enlisted persons and five dollars for warrant officers and
23 first and second lieutenants.]

24 (c) For military [service] duty when ordered out by the Governor,
25 each [commissioned officer, warrant officer and enlisted person]
26 member of the armed forces of the state in a unit of the organized
27 militia which is not federally recognized shall be paid on the same
28 scale as the federal pay for corresponding grades [in the tables of
29 organization] of the federally recognized National Guard, [increased
30 by the amount of ten dollars for enlisted persons and five dollars for
31 warrant officers and first and second lieutenants] including longevity
32 pay and allowances. Unless otherwise provided by law, the
33 determination of the corresponding grades in the [organized militia,
34 other than the federally recognized National Guard,] armed forces of
35 the state shall be made by the Adjutant General. [Officers, warrant
36 officers and enlisted personnel of the Connecticut National Guard who
37 attend schools, conferences or staff or ceremonial exercises by order of
38 the Governor shall be paid their travel and actual expenses.
39 Commissioned officers serving on boards or military commissions or
40 attending conferences called by higher headquarters in or out of the
41 state shall receive pay and allowance of their grade plus actual
42 expenses.]

43 (d) Each [commissioned and warrant officer, chief petty officer and
44 enlisted person] member of the naval militia when ordered out by the
45 Governor, except when federal pay has been authorized, shall receive
46 for each [day's service] day of military duty the same pay and

47 allowances as are prescribed by the federal government for the
48 corresponding grades of members of the United States Navy. [but such
49 pay shall be increased by the amount of ten dollars for enlisted persons
50 and five dollars for chief petty officers, warrant officers, lieutenants
51 junior grade and ensigns.]

52 (e) Members of the armed forces of the state, with the consent of the
53 member and the consent of the Governor, may be ordered to perform
54 military duty, including training, with or without pay and allowances.
55 Prior to being ordered to perform military duty without pay and
56 allowances, such members shall be notified of their right to refuse
57 consent at the time the consent required by this section is sought.
58 Military duty without pay and allowances shall be, for all purposes
59 other than compensation for the duty performed, construed as if it
60 were duty with pay and allowances.

61 (f) When performing military duty with pay and allowances,
62 members of the armed forces of the state shall be entitled to pay and
63 allowances on the same scale as the corresponding grades of the
64 federally recognized National Guard. Any such member who is
65 detailed from the retired list in accordance with section 27-54 shall be
66 entitled to pay and allowances in their state retired grade on the same
67 scale as the corresponding grades of the federally recognized National
68 Guard.

69 Sec. 2. Section 27-67 of the general statutes is repealed and the
70 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

71 [The commanding officer of any officer, soldier or sailor wounded,
72 disabled or killed, when such disability or death is incident to the
73 service, shall immediately make or cause to be made, by one or more
74 officers detailed for the purpose, full inquiry and report concerning
75 such injury or death, in writing, through channels to the Adjutant
76 General, with the names and addresses of qualified witnesses and a
77 full statement of the testimony of each concerning the nature and
78 extent of the injury and the manner of its occurrence. Each member of
79 the armed forces of the state who, when on duty or assembled therefor,

80 in accordance with orders of competent authority, or when called in
81 aid of any civil authority, is injured or contracts any disease while in
82 the performance of his or her duty or assembly therefor, without fault
83 or neglect on his or her part, and thereby is temporarily or
84 permanently disabled from continuing to perform his or her usual
85 duties or occupation, shall, during the period of disability, receive
86 benefits in accordance with the provisions of chapter 568.]

87 (a) Except as provided in section 4-165, a member of the armed
88 forces of the state performing military duty in accordance with section
89 27-61, as amended by this act, shall be construed to be an employee of
90 the state for the specific purposes of liability, immunity and being
91 subject to the jurisdiction of the Workers' Compensation Commission
92 and shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of chapter
93 568 for death, disability or injury incurred while performing such
94 military duty. A member of the armed forces of the state performing
95 such military duty shall not be considered an employee of the state for
96 other purposes.

97 (b) Any member of the armed forces of the state who performs
98 military duty pursuant to sections 27-17 and 27-18 shall be construed
99 to be an employee of the state for the specific purposes of liability,
100 immunity and being subject to the jurisdiction of the Workers'
101 Compensation Commission and shall be compensated in accordance
102 with the provisions of chapter 568 for death, disability or injury
103 incurred while performing such military duty. A member of the armed
104 forces of the state performing such military duty shall not be
105 considered an employee of the state for other purposes.

106 (c) Any member of the armed forces of the state who is injured
107 while performing military duty in accordance with section 27-17, 27-18
108 or 27-61, as amended by this act, may collect benefits under the
109 provisions of chapter 568 based on the salary of the member's
110 employment or the average production wage in the state, as
111 determined by the Labor Commissioner under the provisions of
112 section 31-309, whichever is greater. The provisions of this subsection

113 shall apply only if the member of the armed forces of the state is
114 unable to perform the member's regular employment duties.

115 (d) For the purpose of this section, there shall be no prorating of
116 compensation benefits because of other employment by a member of
117 the armed forces of the state.

118 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 31-58 of the general statutes is
119 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
120 *October 1, 2013*):

121 (f) "Employee" means any individual employed or permitted to
122 work by an employer but shall not include any individual employed in
123 camps or resorts which are open no more than six months of the year
124 or in domestic service in or about a private home, except any
125 individual in domestic service employment as defined in the
126 regulations of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, or an individual
127 employed in a bona fide executive, administrative or professional
128 capacity as defined in the regulations of the Labor Commissioner or an
129 individual employed by the federal government, or any individual
130 engaged in the activities of an educational, charitable, religious,
131 scientific, historical, literary or nonprofit organization where the
132 employer-employee relationship does not, in fact, exist or where the
133 services rendered to such organizations are on a voluntary basis, or
134 any individual employed as a head resident or resident assistant by a
135 college or university, or any individual engaged in baby sitting, or an
136 outside salesman as defined in the regulations of the federal Fair Labor
137 Standards Act, [;] or any individual employed by a nonprofit theater,
138 provided such theater does not operate for more than seven months in
139 any calendar year, or a member of the armed forces of the state
140 performing military duty, as such terms are defined in section 27-61, as
141 amended by this act;

142 Sec. 4. Subdivision (9) of section 31-275 of the general statutes is
143 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
144 *October 1, 2013*):

- 145 (9) (A) "Employee" means any person who:
- 146 (i) Has entered into or works under any contract of service or
147 apprenticeship with an employer, whether the contract contemplated
148 the performance of duties within or without the state;
- 149 (ii) Is a sole proprietor or business partner who accepts the
150 provisions of this chapter in accordance with subdivision (10) of this
151 section;
- 152 (iii) Is elected to serve as a member of the General Assembly of this
153 state;
- 154 (iv) Is a salaried officer or paid member of any police department or
155 fire department;
- 156 (v) Is a volunteer police officer, whether the officer is designated as
157 special or auxiliary, upon vote of the legislative body of the town, city
158 or borough in which the officer serves;
- 159 (vi) Is an elected or appointed official or agent of any town, city or
160 borough in the state, upon vote of the proper authority of the town,
161 city or borough, including the elected or appointed official or agent,
162 irrespective of the manner in which he or she is appointed or
163 employed. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as affecting
164 any existing rights as to pensions which such persons or their
165 dependents had on July 1, 1927, or as preventing any existing custom
166 of paying the full salary of any such person during disability due to
167 injury arising out of and in the course of his or her employment;
- 168 (vii) Is [an officer or enlisted person of the National Guard or other]
169 a member of the armed forces of the state [called to active duty by the
170 Governor while performing his or her active duty service] while in the
171 performance of military duty, whether paid or unpaid for such
172 military duty, in accordance with the provisions of section 27-17, 27-18
173 or 27-61, as amended by this act; or
- 174 (viii) Is elected to serve as a probate judge for a probate district

175 established in section 45a-2.

176 (B) "Employee" shall not be construed to include:

177 (i) Any person to whom articles or material are given to be treated
178 in any way on premises not under the control or management of the
179 person who gave them out;

180 (ii) One whose employment is of a casual nature and who is
181 employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or
182 business;

183 (iii) A member of the employer's family dwelling in his house; but,
184 if, in any contract of insurance, the wages or salary of a member of the
185 employer's family dwelling in his house is included in the payroll on
186 which the premium is based, then that person shall, if he sustains an
187 injury arising out of and in the course of his employment, be deemed
188 an employee and compensated in accordance with the provisions of
189 this chapter;

190 (iv) Any person engaged in any type of service in or about a private
191 dwelling provided he is not regularly employed by the owner or
192 occupier over twenty-six hours per week;

193 (v) An employee of a corporation who is a corporate officer and
194 who elects to be excluded from coverage under this chapter by notice
195 in writing to his employer and to the commissioner; or

196 (vi) Any person who is not a resident of this state but is injured in
197 this state during the course of his employment, unless such person (I)
198 works for an employer who has a place of employment or a business
199 facility located in this state at which such person spends at least fifty
200 per cent of his employment time, or (II) works for an employer
201 pursuant to an employment contract to be performed primarily in this
202 state.

203 Sec. 5. Section 27-75 of the general statutes is repealed and the
204 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

205 Memorials to [veteran soldiers, sailors or marines] veterans of the
206 armed forces of the state or the United States and to state or federal
207 military service may be placed in state [armories] military facilities or
208 erected upon [grounds appurtenant thereto by cities, towns or
209 boroughs] state-owned or controlled military property, subject to the
210 approval of the Adjutant General and without expense to the state.

211 Sec. 6. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 5-259d of the general
212 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
213 (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

214 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
215 public or special act, the state shall continue to provide coverage,
216 under a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan
217 sponsored by the state under section 5-259, for the dependents of any
218 state employee and the state employee who is a member of the armed
219 forces of any state or of any reserve component of the armed forces of
220 the United States and who has been called to active service in the
221 armed forces of any state or the United States for [(1) Operation
222 Enduring Freedom, (2) Operation Noble Eagle, (3) a related emergency
223 operation or a military operation whose mission was substantially
224 changed as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001, (4) federal
225 action or state action authorized by the Governor in support of the
226 federal Department of Homeland Security's Operation Liberty Shield,
227 military operations that are authorized by the President of the United
228 States that entail military action against Iraq, or federal action or state
229 action authorized by the Governor to combat terrorism within the
230 United States, or (5) federal action or state action authorized by the
231 Governor or the President of the United States that entails service or
232 military action as part of Operation Jump Start at the border of the
233 United States and Mexico] a military operation, war or national
234 emergency, for the duration of such call-up to active service, provided
235 such state employee and dependents were covered by the insurance
236 plan on the date the state employee was called to active service and the
237 state employee continues to pay any amount that the employee was
238 required to pay for coverage before being called to active service. Any

239 payment required to be made by the employee for coverage under this
240 subsection may be deducted from compensation provided under
241 subsection (c) of this section. The state shall reimburse any state
242 employee who has paid premiums for the continuation of any such
243 group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan
244 between the date such state employee was called to active service and
245 November 20, 2001. The reimbursement shall be in the amount of the
246 state's portion of the premiums so paid.

247 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
248 public or special act, any state employee who is a member of the
249 armed forces of any state or of any reserve component of the armed
250 forces of the United States and who has been called to active service in
251 the armed forces of any state or the United States for [(1) Operation
252 Enduring Freedom, (2) Operation Noble Eagle, (3) a related emergency
253 operation or a military operation whose mission was substantially
254 changed as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001, (4) federal
255 action or state action authorized by the Governor in support of the
256 federal Department of Homeland Security's Operation Liberty Shield,
257 military operations that are authorized by the President of the United
258 States that entail military action against Iraq, or federal action or state
259 action authorized by the Governor to combat terrorism within the
260 United States, or (5) federal action or state action authorized by the
261 Governor or the President of the United States that entails service or
262 military action as part of Operation Jump Start at the border of the
263 United States and Mexico] a military operation, war or national
264 emergency, shall continue to accrue all vacation time, equivalent leave
265 time and sick time to which the employee would be entitled if he or
266 she had continued working in his or her state position during the time
267 of such active service, and shall be credited with such accrued vacation
268 time, equivalent leave time or sick time, except that if the accrual of
269 such vacation time, equivalent leave time or sick time pursuant to this
270 subsection while on active service would cause the employee to exceed
271 any limit on leave time pursuant to any provision of the general
272 statutes, the regulations of Connecticut state agencies or a collective
273 bargaining agreement, the limit shall be temporarily waived to allow

274 the employee to use the excess leave time before the later of the
 275 following: [(A)] (1) From the date of the state employee's discharge
 276 from active service until the state employee returns to state
 277 employment, [(B)] (2) not later than one hundred twenty calendar days
 278 after the state employee returns to state employment, [(C)] (3) not later
 279 than one hundred twenty calendar days after the state employee is
 280 credited with such excess leave time, or [(D)] (4) for state employees in
 281 teaching or professional positions in Unified School District #1
 282 established pursuant to section 18-99a within the Department of
 283 Correction who were credited with equivalent leave time pursuant to
 284 this section, not later than one year after the employee is credited with
 285 such excess leave time. The employee shall be entitled to a leave of
 286 absence with pay as provided in section 27-33 from the date on which
 287 the employee was called to active service. After the expiration of such
 288 leave of absence with pay, the state employee shall receive part pay for
 289 the duration of such call-up to active service if the compensation
 290 received by the state employee for such active service is less than the
 291 employee's base rate of pay, plus longevity, in the employee's primary
 292 position. The state employee shall not be required to exhaust accrued
 293 vacation time, equivalent leave time or sick time in order to be eligible
 294 for the paid leave of absence and part pay under this subsection. As
 295 used in this section, "equivalent leave time" means leave time classified
 296 as other than vacation time or sick time and includes, but is not limited
 297 to, leave time classified as recess rather than vacation time.

298 Sec. 7. Sections 27-19a, 27-67a, 27-69, 27-69a and 29-1s of the general
 299 statutes are repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2013*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	27-61
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	27-67
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	31-58(f)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	31-275(9)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	27-75
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	5-259d(b) and (c)

Sec. 7	October 1, 2013	Repealer section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 3, "such terms are" was added for clarity and accuracy.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Administrative Services - Workers' Comp. Claims	GF & TF - Potential Cost	Potential	Potential
Military Dept.	GF - Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund and TF = Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill may result in an impact to the Department of Administrative Services Workers' Compensation Program.¹ The bill makes changes to the indemnity (wage) portion of workers' compensation benefit for military personnel who are called in to serve the state and in the course of duty experience a workers' compensation qualifying event.

It is unlikely this change will have a significant annual impact on the Workers' Compensation Program as the state is currently liable for eligible claims costs for this population. The actual impact to the state program would depend on the total claimants eligible for benefits and their actual earnings at the time of the injury.

Currently, the indemnity portion of a military person's workers' compensation benefit is defined as one of the following: 1) the individual's earnings from their place of employment (this may be the state, military, other, etc.), 2) for individuals with concurrent employment a blended rate is calculated based on wages earned at

¹ The state's workers' compensation program is a self-insured, pay-as-you-go program

each employer and the hours worked, or 3) for those unemployed, the lesser of \$234 a week or 75% of the average weekly production wage in the state.

The bill requires the indemnity benefit to equal the greater of the following: a) the salary of the individual in their present employment or b) the average production wage in the state.^{2 3} The bill does not appear to allow for proration for concurrent employment; it is assumed the wages earned from a single employer would be used to establish the indemnity benefit. The impact on the state for employed claimants would depend on the claimants' actual wages. The impact on the state for unemployed claimants is increased from \$234 per week to \$879 per week.

Additionally, the bill will result in minimal savings to the Military Department when the state's armed forces are ordered into service by the Governor. The savings are a result of removing \$5 and \$10 daily bonuses for certain members of the armed forces.

Lastly, the bill makes other clarifying and administrative changes to workers' compensation procedures and benefits for service members acting in the service of the state which do not result in a fiscal impact to the state workers' compensation program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact for the State's Workers' Compensation Program identified above would continue into the future subject to any changes in the state average production wage.

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

² As of May 2011 the average annual production wage in the state is \$34,220. (US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics).

³ For unemployed individuals, the average production wage would be used to determine the indemnity portion of their benefit.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6348*****AN ACT CONCERNING STATE MILITARY SERVICE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill updates and changes several laws pertaining to the state's armed forces personnel and Military Department. It:

1. permits unpaid state military duty for the state's armed forces and its retirees with the consent of both the governor and member;
2. makes changes concerning pay, including the elimination of additional state remuneration beyond salary for certain members;
3. gives the state's armed forces, and its retirees when performing state military duty, the same workers' compensation, liability, and immunity protections as state employees;
4. repeals two death benefit statutes;
5. changes how certain military service is defined for state employees' benefits; and
6. removes the Military Department from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, where it is currently housed for administrative purposes only.

It also makes a change concerning memorials to veterans as well as technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013, except the provision concerning veteran's memorials, which is effective upon passage.

STATE'S ARMED FORCES

The law defines the state's armed forces as the (1) National Guard; (2) organized militia (i.e., the governor's guards, the State Guard, and other military forces the governor as commander-in-chief may designate); and (3) naval militia and marine corps branch of the naval militia, whenever organized (CGS § 27-2). The bill expands this definition to include retired members of the state's armed forces, who are detailed to duty by state military orders.

Unpaid State Service

The bill creates a two-track system of paid and unpaid service. It allows a member or retiree of the state's armed forces to be ordered to state military duty, including training, with or without pay, if both the member or retiree and the governor consent.

The bill specifies that, before being ordered to perform unpaid service, the member or retiree must be notified of the right to refuse to serve unpaid. Unpaid service still counts for purposes of receiving credit toward retirement and any other benefits, as applicable.

Paid Service

The bill specifies that the state's armed forces, including retirees, when ordered out by the governor are paid at the same rate as if they were ordered out by federal authority, including, for the National Guard and organized militia, longevity pay and allowances. It eliminates additional state payments of \$10 for most enlisted members and \$5 for chief petty officers, warrant officers, and junior commissioned officers.

It also specifies that the adjutant general determines the corresponding grades (pay according to rank) for the state's armed forces, including federally recognized National Guard units, to conform pay with federal rates, which is the current practice.

Under current law, Connecticut National Guard members must be paid for travel and expenses when attending schools, conferences, staff, or ceremonial exercises ordered by the governor. Commissioned

officers serving on boards or military commissions or attending conferences that higher headquarters call must receive pay and allowances according to their grade (rank), plus expenses. The bill eliminates these requirements.

Workers' Compensation and Personal Liability Immunity

The bill eliminates a step in current law's state armed forces worker's compensation process, which requires an inquiry and report by the injured or killed member's commanding officer.

The bill also makes members of the state's armed forces, and retirees detailed to duty, including unpaid members and retirees, state employees for purposes of (1) the existing civilian workers' compensation process and (2) immunity from personal liability. By law, state employees and officers are not personally liable for damage or injury that is caused within the scope of their employment or by the discharge of their duties as long as they are not wanton, reckless, or malicious (CGS § 4-165).

These protections apply to members and detailed retirees (1) performing under the governor's orders or (2) called out to assist in containing a riot or civil commotion, whether by the governor or by another civil authority when the governor cannot be reached. They do not cover paid federal duty.

The bill eliminates an obsolete provision that provides disability compensation to a member of the state's armed forces who has (1) been temporarily or permanently disabled incident to state service prior to June 6, 1977, (2) made application for disability compensation and has a claim pending before the Adjutant General, and (3) not signed a written release of his or her claim for such disability. No such service member exists.

Compensation Rate. Under the bill, any of the state's armed forces members or detailed retirees performing state military duty may collect workers' compensation benefits based on his or her civilian salary or the average production wage in the state, whichever is

greater, if the member or retiree is injured while engaged in military duties. This applies only if the member or retiree is unable to perform his or her regular employment duties.

The bill prohibits prorating any compensation to members of the state's armed forces injured, disabled, or killed while performing state military duties, due to that member's other employment.

Certain Death Benefits

The bill eliminates a \$20,000 death benefit payment to the beneficiary or next of kin of a state armed forces member who is killed in the line of duty while in state active service.

It also eliminates an obsolete death benefit the legislature enacted in 2005 intended for certain surviving dependents of Connecticut-domiciled armed forces members, including guard members and reservists, who were killed in action or died from illness or accident suffered while deployed and performing active-duty service in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) or Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) between September 11, 2001 and July 1, 2006. Current law requires that this benefit be reduced by the amount paid for any federal death benefit. Since federal death benefits exceed state benefits, this provision is obsolete (see BACKGROUND).

State Employees Serving in the National Guard or Reserves

Under current law, state employees who are reservists or National Guard members called to federal active-duty service in support of (1) Operation Enduring Freedom, (2) military action against Iraq, (3) Operation Noble Eagle (anti-terrorism actions within the U.S.), (4) federal or state action in support of Operation Liberty Shield or other anti-terrorism efforts in the U.S., and (5) Operation Jump Start (duty at the U.S. and Mexican border) receive up to 30 days' paid leave. After 30 days, they receive payment of the difference between the employee's state pay (including longevity) and his or her military pay. They are also entitled to other fringe benefits, including continued

state health insurance coverage for the employee and any dependents for the duration of active-duty service, as long as the employee continues to make the same insurance payments required before activation.

The bill extends these benefits to state employees called to federal active-duty as reservists or National Guard members for any military operation, war, or national emergency.

MEMORIALS

Under current law, cities, towns, or boroughs may place memorials to veteran soldiers, sailors, and marines in state armories and on the ground around the armories, subject to the adjutant general’s approval and without cost to the state. The bill specifies that memorials to veterans of the U.S. armed forces may be placed in state military facilities or on state-owned or controlled military property under the same conditions.

BACKGROUND

SGLI

Service members’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is a U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs term life insurance plan that provides up to \$400,000 of coverage, in increments of \$10,000, to service members. Coverage of \$400,000 is automatic, but members may decline it or elect reduced coverage, in writing. Proceeds are payable to beneficiaries on the service member’s death. The coverage level increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000, on September 1, 2005.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/22/2013)