



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 28

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6349

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 THE STATE MILITARY RELIEF FUND.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-100a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "department" means the Military
4 Department, (2) "fund" means the Military [Family] Relief Fund
5 established in accordance with this section, (3) "eligible member of the
6 armed forces" and "eligible member" means a member of the armed
7 forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, including the
8 Connecticut National Guard, who is domiciled in this state, (4)
9 "immediate family member" means an eligible member's spouse, child
10 or parent who is domiciled in this state, or any other member of an
11 eligible member's family who lives in the same household as the
12 eligible member, and (5) "essential personal or household goods or
13 services" includes, but is not limited to, repairs, medical services that
14 are not covered by insurance, transportation, babysitting, clothing,
15 school supplies or any other goods or services that are essential to the

16 well-being of an eligible member or eligible member's immediate
17 family.

18 (b) There is established, within the General Fund, a separate,
19 nonlapsing account to be known as the "Military [Family] Relief Fund".
20 The account shall contain (1) any amounts appropriated or otherwise
21 made available by the state for the purposes of this section, (2) any
22 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, and (3) gifts,
23 grants, donations or bequests made for the purposes of this section.
24 Investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become
25 part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the account at
26 the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for
27 the fiscal year next succeeding. The State Treasurer shall administer
28 the fund. All moneys deposited in the account shall be used by the
29 Military Department for the purposes of this section. The Military
30 Department may deduct and retain from the moneys in the account an
31 amount equal to the costs incurred by the department in administering
32 the provisions of this section, except that said amount shall not exceed
33 two per cent of the moneys deposited in the account in any fiscal year.

34 (c) The Military Department shall use the Military [Family] Relief
35 Fund to make grants to eligible members of the armed forces or their
36 immediate family members [of eligible members of the armed forces]
37 for essential personal or household goods or services in this state if the
38 payment for such goods or services would be a hardship for such
39 eligible member or family member because of the military service of
40 the eligible member. The department shall not make any grant that
41 exceeds five thousand dollars or the balance available for grants in the
42 fund.

43 (d) The department shall establish an application process that is
44 simple for eligible members and their immediate family members. The
45 department shall act on each application no later than seven days after
46 the date on which the completed application is submitted to the
47 department.

48 (e) [On or after six months from June 30, 2005, after evaluating the

49 performance of the program during the preceding six months,
50 including available resources and applications received, the
51 department may commence the process to adopt regulations, in
52 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, that would facilitate the
53 purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing a
54 maximum amount of each grant, of each type of grant or of grants to
55 the immediate family members of any eligible member, and
56 establishing criteria for the approval of grant applications.] The
57 department shall adopt regulations implementing the provisions of
58 this section, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, and may
59 implement the policies and procedures contained in such proposed
60 regulations while in the process of adopting such proposed
61 regulations, provided the department publishes notice of intention to
62 adopt the regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal no later than
63 twenty days after implementing such policies and procedures. Policies
64 and procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid
65 until the earlier of the date on which such regulations are effective or
66 one year after the publication of such notice of intention.

67 (f) On or before [October 15, 2005, and on or before the fifteenth day
68 following the close of each calendar quarter thereafter] February
69 fifteenth of each calendar year, the department shall submit a report to
70 the [select] joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
71 cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs, in
72 accordance with section 11-4a, that contains the following information
73 for the preceding calendar [quarter] year: (1) The number of
74 applications received, (2) the number of eligible members who
75 received grants under this section and whose immediate family
76 members received grants under this section, (3) the amount in grants
77 made to each such eligible member and to the immediate family of
78 each such eligible member, (4) the uses for such grants, and (5) any
79 recommendations regarding the Military [Family] Relief Fund,
80 including any proposed legislation to facilitate the purposes of this
81 section. Such reports shall not identify the name of any eligible
82 member or of any immediate family member. Notwithstanding the
83 provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-210, all information obtained

84 by the Military Department that contains the name or address of, or
85 other information that could be used to identify, an eligible member or
86 an immediate family member shall be confidential.

87 Sec. 2. Section 12-743a of the general statutes is repealed and the
88 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

89 (a) Any taxpayer filing a return under this chapter for taxable years
90 commencing on or after January 1, 2005, may contribute all or part of a
91 refund under this chapter to the Military [Family] Relief Fund
92 established in section 27-100a, as amended by this act, by indicating on
93 the tax return the amount to be contributed to the fund.

94 (b) A contribution or designation made pursuant to this section shall
95 be irrevocable upon the filing of the return. A taxpayer making a
96 contribution or designation pursuant to this subsection shall so
97 indicate on the tax return in a manner provided for by the
98 Commissioner of Revenue Services.

99 (c) A contribution of all or part of a refund shall be made in the full
100 amount indicated if the refund found due the taxpayer upon the initial
101 processing of the return, and after any deductions required by this
102 chapter, is greater than or equal to the indicated contribution. If the
103 refund due, as determined upon initial processing, and after any
104 deductions required by this chapter, is less than the indicated
105 contribution, the contribution shall be made in the full amount of the
106 refund. The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall subtract the
107 amount of any contribution of all or part of a refund from the amount
108 of the refund initially found due the taxpayer and shall certify (1) the
109 amount of the refund initially found due the taxpayer, (2) the amount
110 of any such contribution, and (3) the amount of the difference to the
111 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the State
112 Treasurer for payment to the taxpayer in accordance with this chapter.
113 For the purposes of any subsequent determination of the taxpayer's net
114 tax payment, such contribution shall be considered a part of the refund
115 paid to the taxpayer.

116 (d) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, after notification of and
 117 approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
 118 may deduct and retain from the moneys collected under subsections
 119 (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section an amount equal to the costs of
 120 administering this section, but in any fiscal year beginning on or after
 121 July 1, 2006, not to exceed four per cent of such moneys collected in
 122 such fiscal year. The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall deposit
 123 the remaining moneys collected in the Military [Family] Relief Fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2013	27-100a
Sec. 2	July 1, 2013	12-743a

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(e), "implementing the provisions of this section," was added to ensure clarity.

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 \$
Military Dept.	Military Relief Fund - See Below	See Below	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands eligibility for assistance from the Military Family Relief Fund to include members of the armed forces, which is likely to increase the number of grants issued from the fund. The current balance of the fund is \$822,391.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6349*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE MILITARY RELIEF FUND.*****SUMMARY:**

Under current law, the Military Family Relief Fund provides grants to help the immediate family members of Connecticut-domiciled armed forces members pay for essential household goods or services, if paying for them would be a hardship for the family because of the member's service. This bill (1) expands the group of eligible grant recipients to include armed forces members and (2) caps the amount of any grant at \$5,000. It changes the name of the fund to the Military Relief Fund.

The bill requires, rather than allows, the Military Department to adopt regulations governing the fund. It also requires the department to report on the status of the fund to the Veterans' Affairs Committee annually, on or before February fifteenth, instead of quarterly.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES

Under the law and bill, eligible members of the armed forces are members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, any reserve component thereof, and the Connecticut National Guard performing active or full-time National Guard duty, who are domiciled in Connecticut.

BACKGROUND***Military Family Relief Fund***

This fund is a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account

administered by the state treasurer. The Military Department uses it to make grants to eligible servicemembers' immediate family members to pay for essential personal or household goods or services in Connecticut, if paying for them is a hardship because of a member's service. "Immediate family members" are an eligible member's spouse, child, or parent domiciled in Connecticut or other relatives living in his or her household. "Essential personal household goods or services" include repairs, uninsured medical services, transportation, babysitting, clothing, school supplies, and other goods or services essential to the relatives' well being.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/22/2013)