



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 5754

LCO No. 4094



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR
VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 27-102l of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (c) In addition to the powers and duties prescribed under section 4-
5 8, the commissioner shall have the following powers and duties:

6 (1) To prepare studies and collect information concerning facilities
7 and services available to members of the armed forces, veterans, their
8 spouses or eligible dependents, including facilities and services for
9 veterans who may have been exposed to a Vietnam herbicide during
10 their periods of military service;

11 (2) To conduct interviews in the nursing homes or hospitals
12 throughout the state to determine the number of veterans admitted
13 and ascertaining which benefits such veterans are currently receiving
14 and are entitled to receive;

15 (3) To cooperate with service agencies and organizations
16 throughout the state in disseminating and furnishing counsel and
17 assistance of benefit to residents of this state who are or have been
18 members of the armed forces, their spouses or eligible dependents,
19 which will indicate the availability of: (A) Educational training and
20 retraining facilities; (B) health, medical, rehabilitation and housing
21 services and facilities; (C) employment and reemployment services; (D)
22 provisions of federal, state and local laws affording financial rights,
23 privileges and benefits; and (E) other matters of similar nature;

24 (4) To assist veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and
25 family members in the preparation, presentation, proof and
26 establishment of such claims, privileges, rights and other benefits
27 accruing to them under federal, state and local laws;

28 (5) To cooperate with all national, state and local governmental and
29 private agencies securing or offering services or any benefits to
30 veterans, their spouses or dependents;

31 (6) To develop and prepare a long-range plan and mission statement
32 for the Veterans' Home and the veterans' advocacy and assistance unit;
33 [and]

34 (7) To review all appeals made by veterans, their spouses or eligible
35 dependents or family members and render the final decision thereon
36 regarding the denial of admission to any program or the refusal to
37 render any service or benefit which is administered by the Department
38 of Veterans' Affairs, the discharge or transfer from any such program
39 or any disciplinary action taken while participating in any such
40 program; and

41 (8) To develop, within available resources and in consultation with
42 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the
43 Department of Children and Families, the Military Department,
44 veterans' organizations and local veterans' advisory committees, an
45 outreach program designed to inform veterans, members of the armed

46 forces and their dependents and family members of existing federal
47 and state mental health services available to such individuals,
48 including, but not limited to, transitional behavioral health services
49 available pursuant to section 17a-453d.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-1021(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that Connecticut veterans, members of the armed forces and their dependents and family members are aware of existing mental health services available to them.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. CAFERO, 142nd Dist.; REP. CANDELORA, 86th Dist.
REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.; REP. NICASTRO, 79th Dist.

H.B. 5754