



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

***Raised Bill No. 6349***

LCO No. 2832



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***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 Section 27-100a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 in accordance with the provisions  
58 of chapter 54, and may implement the policies and procedures  
59 contained in such proposed regulations while in the process of  
60 adopting such proposed regulations, provided the department  
61 publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations in the  
62 Connecticut Law Journal no later than twenty days after implementing  
63 such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented  
64 pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the earlier of the date on  
65 which such regulations are effective or one year after the publication of  
66 such notice of intention.

67 (f) On or before February fifteenth of each calendar year [October  
68 15, 2005, and on or before the fifteenth day following the close of each  
69 calendar quarter thereafter], 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	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	27-100a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	12-743a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To expand eligibility for grants from the Military Relief Fund to permit payment to eligible members of the armed forces who are unable to pay for certain expenses due to their military service.

*[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.]*