



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 1034

LCO No. 3848



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERANS AFFAIRS.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (5) of section 3-62b of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (5) Sections 3-62b to 3-62g, inclusive, are applicable to all funds or
5 other property in the possession of the government of the United
6 States, and of its departments, officers and agencies, which property
7 has its situs in this state or which belonged or belongs to a resident of
8 this state or which belonged or belongs to a person whose last-known
9 address was within this state, and is not limited to any named federal
10 agency. [Said sections] Sections 3-62b to 3-62g, inclusive, are applicable
11 to all funds held in the [Veterans' Administration] United States
12 Department of Veterans Affairs, Comptroller of Currency, United
13 States Treasury, Department of Internal Revenue, Post Office
14 Department, federal courts and registry of federal courts, and to such
15 evidences of indebtedness as adjusted service bonds, matured debts
16 issued prior to 1917, together with interest thereon, postal savings

17 bonds, liberty bonds, victory notes, Treasury bonds, Treasury notes,
18 certificates of indebtedness, Treasury bills, Treasurer's savings
19 certificates, bonuses and adjusted compensation, allotments, postal
20 savings certificates, Farmers Home Administration notes, and all
21 unclaimed refunds or rebates of whatever kind or nature, which are
22 subjects of escheat, under the terms of said sections; provided nothing
23 in [said] sections 3-62b to 3-62g, inclusive, shall be construed to mean
24 that any funds held or controlled by the United States on October 1,
25 1969, under order of any court of the United States shall become
26 property of the state.

27 Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 4a-82 of the
28 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
29 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

30 (1) "Person with a disability" means any individual with a disability,
31 excluding blindness, as such term is applied by the Department of
32 Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of
33 Developmental Services, the Department of Rehabilitation Services or
34 the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of Veterans
35 Affairs and who is certified by the Department of Rehabilitation
36 Services as qualified to participate in a qualified partnership, as
37 described in subsections (f) to (m), inclusive, of this section;

38 Sec. 3. Section 5-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the
39 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

40 Any veteran who served in time of war, if such veteran is not
41 eligible for disability compensation or pension from the United States
42 [through the Veterans' Administration] Department of Veterans
43 Affairs, or the spouse of such veteran who by reason of such veteran's
44 disability is unable to pursue gainful employment, or the unmarried
45 surviving spouse of such veteran, and if such person has attained at
46 least the minimum earned rating on any examination held for an
47 original appointment for the purpose of establishing a candidate list to

48 fill a vacancy in accordance with subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall
49 have five points added to his or her earned rating. Any such veteran,
50 or the spouse of such veteran who by reason of such veteran's
51 disability is unable to pursue gainful employment, or the unmarried
52 surviving spouse of such veteran, if such person is eligible for such
53 disability compensation or pension and if he or she has attained at
54 least the minimum earned rating on any such examination held for an
55 original appointment for the purpose of establishing a candidate list to
56 fill a vacancy in accordance with subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall
57 have ten points added to his or her earned rating. Any person who has
58 been honorably discharged from or released under honorable
59 conditions from active service in the armed forces of the United States,
60 and who has served in a military action for which such person
61 received or was entitled to receive a campaign badge or expeditionary
62 medal, shall have five points added to his or her earned rating if such
63 person has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any such
64 examination held for an original appointment for the purpose of
65 establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance with
66 subsection (d) of section 5-228 and such person is not otherwise
67 eligible to receive additional points pursuant to this section. Names of
68 any such persons shall be placed upon the candidate lists in the order
69 of such augmented ratings. Credits shall be based upon examinations
70 with a possible rating of one hundred points.

71 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 7-313c of the general statutes is
72 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
73 *passage*):

74 (b) This section shall not apply to any member of a fire department
75 of a town, city or borough receiving educational benefits from the
76 [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of Veterans
77 Affairs or any Connecticut fire department association.

78 Sec. 5. Section 7-415 of the general statutes is repealed and the
79 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

80 Any veteran who served in time of war, if he or she is not eligible
81 for disability compensation or pension from the United States through
82 the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of Veterans
83 Affairs and if he or she has attained at least the minimum earned
84 rating on any examination held for the purpose of establishing an
85 employment list for original appointment, shall have five points added
86 to his or her earned rating. Any such veteran, if he or she is eligible for
87 such disability compensation or pension and if he or she has attained
88 at least the minimum earned rating on any such examination, shall
89 have ten points added to his or her earned rating. Names of veterans
90 shall be placed on the list of eligibles in the order of such augmented
91 rating. Credits shall be based upon examinations with a possible rating
92 of one hundred points. No such points shall be added to any earned
93 rating in any civil service or merit examination except as provided in
94 this section, the provisions of any municipal charter or special act
95 notwithstanding.

96 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 7-436b of the general statutes is
97 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
98 *passage*):

99 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
100 the municipal employer of any member who applies on or after July 1,
101 1986, for such military service credit shall pay all contributions
102 required under said subsection which are attributable to that portion
103 of the member's military service time during which [he] such member
104 was a prisoner of war, provided such member submits with his or her
105 application for such credit sufficient proof from [the Veterans'
106 Administration of] the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
107 that [he] such member is a former prisoner of war. Any municipal
108 employer which pays the contributions required under this subsection
109 for a member who later receives a retirement allowance for permanent
110 and total disability under this part shall, upon its written request, be
111 refunded all such contributions paid under this subsection, provided
112 such military service credit did not serve to increase the amount of

113 disability retirement benefits for which the member was eligible.

114 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10a-166 of the general statutes is
115 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
116 *passage*):

117 (a) Any child between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three,
118 inclusive, of any person who served in the armed forces in time of war,
119 as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and who was killed in
120 action or who died as a result of accident or illness sustained while
121 performing active military duty with the armed forces of the United
122 States or who has been rated totally and permanently disabled by [the
123 Veterans' Administration of] the United States Department of Veterans
124 Affairs, or who is missing in action in Vietnam, if such person was a
125 resident of this state at the time of his induction or reenlistment, shall
126 receive, upon application to and approval of such application therefor
127 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, state aid for tuition,
128 matriculation fees, board, room rent, books and supplies for such child
129 attending any of the following-named institutions approved by said
130 board: An educational or training institution of college grade or any
131 other institution of higher learning or commercial training, a state
132 college, a technical high school or technical institute or any accredited
133 military preparatory school if such beneficiary is preparing to enter the
134 United States Military Academy at West Point, the United States Naval
135 Academy at Annapolis, the United States Coast Guard Academy at
136 New London or the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado
137 Springs. The application submitted to the Board of Regents for Higher
138 Education shall include an affidavit signed by the applicant which
139 states that the applicant has not applied for and will not apply for or
140 receive state aid from another state which is similar to that provided
141 for in this section. Such grant may be used for the matriculation fees of
142 any such beneficiary at any of said United States government
143 academies. Such aid shall be based on need and shall not exceed four
144 hundred dollars per year for each beneficiary and shall be paid to such
145 institution on vouchers approved by the Board of Regents for Higher

146 Education.

147 Sec. 8. Subdivisions (20) to (24), inclusive, of section 12-81 of the
148 general statutes, are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
149 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

150 (20) Subject to the provisions hereinafter stated, property not
151 exceeding three thousand dollars in amount shall be exempt from
152 taxation, which property belongs to, or is held in trust for, any resident
153 of this state who has served, or is serving, in the Army, Navy, Marine
154 Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and (1) has a
155 disability rating by [the Veterans' Administration of] the United States
156 Department of Veterans Affairs amounting to ten per cent or more of
157 total disability, provided such exemption shall be fifteen hundred
158 dollars in any case in which such rating is between ten per cent and
159 twenty-five per cent; two thousand dollars in any case in which such
160 rating is more than twenty-five per cent but not more than fifty per
161 cent; twenty-five hundred dollars in any case in which such rating is
162 more than fifty per cent but not more than seventy-five per cent; and
163 three thousand dollars in any case in which such person has attained
164 sixty-five years of age or such rating is more than seventy-five per
165 cent; or (2) is receiving a pension, annuity or compensation from the
166 United States because of the loss in service of a leg or arm or that
167 which is considered by the rules of the United States Pension Office or
168 the Bureau of War Risk Insurance the equivalent of such loss. If such
169 veteran lacks such amount of property in his or her name, so much of
170 the property belonging to, or held in trust for, his or her spouse, who is
171 domiciled with him or her, as is necessary to equal such amount shall
172 also be so exempt. When any veteran entitled to an exemption under
173 the provisions of this section has died, property belonging to, or held
174 in trust for, his or her surviving spouse, while such spouse remains a
175 widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for his or her
176 minor children during their minority, or both, while they are residents
177 of this state, shall be exempt in the same aggregate amount as that to
178 which the disabled veteran was or would have been entitled at the

179 time of his or her death. No individual entitled to exemption under
180 this subdivision and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23),
181 (25) and (26) of this section shall receive more than one exemption. No
182 individual shall receive any exemption to which he or she is entitled
183 under this subdivision until he or she has complied with section 12-95
184 and has submitted proof of his or her disability rating, as determined
185 by the [Veterans' Administration of the] United States Department of
186 Veterans Affairs, to the assessor of the town in which the exemption is
187 sought. If there is no change to an individual's disability rating, such
188 proof shall not be required for any assessment year following that for
189 which the exemption under this subdivision is granted initially. If [the
190 Veterans' Administration of] the United States Department of Veterans
191 Affairs modifies a veteran's disability rating, such modification shall be
192 deemed a waiver of the right to such exemption until proof of
193 disability rating is submitted to the assessor and the right to such
194 exemption is established as required initially. Any person who has
195 been unable to submit evidence of disability rating in the manner
196 required by this subdivision, or who has failed to submit such
197 evidence as provided in section 12-95, may, when he or she obtains
198 such evidence, make application to the collector of taxes within one
199 year after he or she obtains such proof or within one year after the
200 expiration of the time limited in section 12-95, as the case may be, for
201 abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case the
202 whole tax has been paid, of such part or the whole of such tax as
203 represents the service exemption. Such abatement or refund may be
204 granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding
205 the date as of which such person was entitled to such disability rating
206 as determined by [the Veterans' Administration of] the United States
207 Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or
208 refund be made for a period greater than three years. The collector
209 shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with his
210 recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen of a town or to
211 the corresponding authority of any other municipality, and shall
212 certify to the amount of abatement or refund to which the applicant is

213 entitled. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the
214 selectmen or other duly constituted authority shall, in case the tax has
215 not been paid, issue a certificate of abatement or, in case the whole tax
216 has been paid, draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such
217 applicant for the amount without interest which represents the service
218 exemption. Any action so taken by such selectmen or other authority
219 shall be a matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in
220 writing of such action;

221 (21) (A) The dwelling house, and the lot whereupon the same is
222 erected, belonging to or held in trust for any person who is a citizen
223 and resident of this state, occupied as such person's domicile, shall be
224 exempt from local property taxation to the extent of ten thousand
225 dollars of its assessed valuation or, lacking said amount in property in
226 such person's own name, so much of the property belonging to, or held
227 in trust for, such person's spouse, who is domiciled with such person,
228 as is necessary to equal said amount, if such person is a veteran who
229 served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of
230 the United States and has been declared by the United States [Veterans'
231 Administration] Department of Veterans Affairs or its successors to
232 have a service-connected disability from paraplegia or osteochondritis
233 resulting in permanent loss of the use of both legs or permanent
234 paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body; or from hemiplegia
235 and has permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm or either side of
236 the body resulting from injury to the spinal cord, skeletal structure or
237 brain or from disease of the spinal cord not resulting from any form of
238 syphilis; or from total blindness as defined in section 12-92; or from the
239 amputation of both arms, both legs, both hands or both feet, or the
240 combination of a hand and a foot; sustained through enemy action, or
241 resulting from accident occurring or disease contracted in such active
242 service. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to include
243 paraplegia or hemiplegia resulting from locomotor ataxia or other
244 forms of syphilis of the central nervous system, or from chronic
245 alcoholism, or to include other forms of disease resulting from the

246 veteran's own misconduct which may produce signs and symptoms
247 similar to those resulting from paraplegia, osteochondritis or
248 hemiplegia. The loss of the use of one arm or one leg because of service
249 related injuries specified in this subdivision shall qualify a veteran for
250 a property tax exemption in the same manner as hereinabove,
251 provided such exemption shall be for five thousand dollars;

252 (B) The exemption provided for in this subdivision shall be in
253 addition to any other exemption of such person's real and personal
254 property allowed by law, but no taxpayer shall be allowed more than
255 one exemption under this subdivision. No person shall be entitled to
256 receive any exemption under this subdivision until such person has
257 satisfied the requirements of subdivision (20) of this section. The
258 surviving spouse of any such person who at the time of such person's
259 death was entitled to and had the exemption provided under this
260 subdivision shall be entitled to the same exemption, (i) while such
261 spouse remains a widow or widower, or (ii) upon the termination of
262 any subsequent marriage of such spouse by dissolution, annulment or
263 death and while a resident of this state, for the time that such person is
264 the legal owner of and actually occupies a dwelling house and
265 premises intended to be exempted hereunder. When the property
266 which is the subject of the claim for exemption provided for in this
267 subdivision is greater than a single family house, the assessor shall
268 aggregate the assessment on the lot and building and allow an
269 exemption of that percentage of the aggregate assessment which the
270 value of the portion of the building occupied by the claimant bears to
271 the value of the entire building;

272 (C) Subject to the approval of the legislative body of the
273 municipality, the dwelling house and the lot whereupon the same is
274 erected, belonging to or held in trust for any citizen and resident of this
275 state, occupied as such person's domicile shall be fully exempt from
276 local property taxation, if such person is a veteran who served in the
277 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United
278 States and has received financial assistance for specially adapted

279 housing under the provisions of Section 801 of Title 38 of the United
280 States Code and has applied such assistance toward the acquisition or
281 modification of such dwelling house. The same exemption may also be
282 allowed on such housing units owned by the surviving spouse of such
283 veteran (i) while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or (ii)
284 upon the termination of any subsequent marriage of such spouse by
285 dissolution, annulment or death, or by such veteran and spouse while
286 occupying such premises as a residence;

287 (22) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
288 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held
289 in trust for, any surviving spouse while such person remains a widow
290 or widower, or a minor child or both, residing in this state, of one who
291 has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air
292 Force of the United States or of any citizen of the United States who
293 served in the military or naval service of a government allied or
294 associated with the United States, as provided by subdivision (19) of
295 this section, and has died either during his or her term of service or
296 after receiving an honorable discharge therefrom, provided such
297 amount shall be three thousand dollars if death was due to service and
298 occurred while on active duty;

299 (23) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
300 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held
301 in trust for, any surviving spouse, while such spouse remains a widow
302 or widower, resident of this state, of one who has served in the Army,
303 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States,
304 which surviving spouse is receiving or has received a pension, annuity
305 or compensation from the United States;

306 (24) The exemption from taxation granted by subdivision (22) of this
307 section, to the amount of three thousand dollars allowable to the
308 widow or widower or minor child or both of a veteran whose death
309 was due to service and occurred on active duty shall be granted to any
310 widow or widower drawing compensation from the [Veterans'

311 Administration] United States Department of Veterans Affairs, upon
312 verification of such fact by letter from the [Veterans' Administration]
313 United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

314 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 12-81g of the general statutes is
315 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
316 *passage*):

317 (a) Effective for the assessment year commencing October 1, 1985,
318 and each assessment year thereafter, any person entitled to an
319 exemption from property tax in accordance with subdivision (19), (20),
320 (21), (22), (23), (24), (25) or (26) of section 12-81, as amended by this act,
321 reflecting any increase made pursuant to the provisions of section 12-
322 62g, shall be entitled to an additional exemption from such tax in an
323 amount equal to twice the amount of the exemption provided for such
324 person pursuant to any such subdivision, provided such person's
325 qualifying income does not exceed the applicable maximum amount as
326 provided under section 12-81l, except that if such person has a
327 disability rating of one hundred per cent as determined by [the
328 Veterans' Administration of] the United States Department of Veterans
329 Affairs, the total of such adjusted gross income, individually, if
330 unmarried, or jointly, if married, in the calendar year ending
331 immediately preceding the assessment date with respect to which such
332 additional exemption is allowed, is not more than twenty-one
333 thousand dollars if such person is married or not more than eighteen
334 thousand dollars if such person is not married. Any claimant who, for
335 the purpose of obtaining an exemption under this section, wilfully fails
336 to disclose all matters related thereto or with intent to defraud makes
337 any false statement shall forfeit the right to claim such additional
338 veteran's exemption.

339 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 14-21d of the general statutes is
340 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
341 *passage*):

342 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any
343 member or former member of the armed forces, as defined in section
344 27-103, who is a former prisoner of war, shall register, without charge,
345 any passenger motor vehicle, camper or passenger and commercial
346 motor vehicle owned or leased by such person, provided no more than
347 two such registrations may be issued to any such person. The
348 commissioner shall issue a special certificate of registration and a
349 number plate or set of number plates in accordance with the
350 provisions of subsection (a) of section 14-21b for each such vehicle.
351 Each application for such special registration and number plate shall
352 be accompanied by proof from [the Veterans' Administration of] the
353 United States Department of Veterans Affairs that such person is a
354 former prisoner of war. The surviving spouse of a former prisoner of
355 war issued such special registration may retain any such registration
356 and number plates without charge for his or her lifetime or until such
357 time as he or she remarries.

358 Sec. 11. Section 14-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the
359 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

360 "Disabled veteran", as used in this section, means any veteran who
361 served in time of war, as defined by section 27-103, and one or both of
362 whose legs or arms or parts thereof have been amputated or the use of
363 which has been lost or who is blind, or who have traumatic brain
364 injury, or paraplegic or hemiplegic, such disability being certified as
365 service-connected by the [Veterans' Administration] United States
366 Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,
367 upon application of any disabled veteran accompanied by such
368 certificate of the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department
369 of Veterans Affairs, shall issue without charge a special number plate
370 or set of plates in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of
371 section 14-21b to be attached to a passenger motor vehicle owned or
372 operated by such veteran and an identification card to be used in
373 connection therewith. The card shall identify the veteran and the
374 motor vehicle and shall state that such veteran is a disabled veteran

375 qualified to receive the card, that the card, plate or plates shall be
376 returned to the commissioner if the registration of the motor vehicle is
377 cancelled or transferred, that the card is for the exclusive use of the
378 person to whom it is issued, is not transferable and will be revoked if
379 presented by any other person or if any privilege granted under this
380 section is abused. If not so revoked, the card shall be renewable every
381 four years at the time of registration of motor vehicles. No penalty
382 shall be imposed for the overtime parking of any motor vehicle
383 bearing a number plate issued under this section when it has been so
384 parked by the disabled veteran to whom the plate and an identification
385 card were issued or by any person operating such vehicle when
386 accompanied by such veteran, provided the length of time for which
387 such vehicle may remain parked at any one location shall not exceed
388 twenty-four hours. The surviving spouse of a disabled veteran issued
389 such special registration may retain any such registration and number
390 plates without charge for his or her lifetime or until such time as he or
391 she remarries.

392 Sec. 12. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the
393 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
394 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

395 (3) As used in this section, (A) "household income" means the
396 combined income over a twelve-month period of the customer and all
397 adults, except children of the customer, who are and have been
398 members of the household for six months or more, and (B) "hardship
399 case" includes, but is not limited to: (i) A customer receiving local, state
400 or federal public assistance; (ii) a customer whose sole source of
401 financial support is Social Security, [Veterans' Administration] United
402 States Department of Veterans Affairs or unemployment compensation
403 benefits; (iii) a customer who is head of the household and is
404 unemployed, and the household income is less than three hundred per
405 cent of the poverty level determined by the federal government; (iv) a
406 customer who is seriously ill or who has a household member who is
407 seriously ill; (v) a customer whose income falls below one hundred

408 twenty-five per cent of the poverty level determined by the federal
409 government; and (vi) a customer whose circumstances threaten a
410 deprivation of food and the necessities of life for himself or dependent
411 children if payment of a delinquent bill is required.

412 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 16a-22m of the general statutes is
413 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
414 *passage*):

415 (b) As used in this section, (1) "eligible residential propane
416 customer" means a residential propane customer (A) who receives
417 local, state or federal public assistance, (B) whose sole source of
418 financial support is Social Security, [Veterans' Administration] United
419 States Department of Veterans Affairs or unemployment compensation
420 benefits, (C) who is head of the household and is unemployed, and the
421 household income is less than three hundred per cent of the poverty
422 level determined by the federal government, (D) who is seriously ill or
423 who has a household member who is seriously ill, (E) whose income
424 falls below two hundred per cent of the poverty level determined by
425 the federal government, or (F) whose circumstances threaten a
426 deprivation of food and the necessities of life for himself or dependent
427 children if payment of a delinquent bill is required; and (2) "household
428 income" means the combined income over a twelve-month period of
429 the customer and all adults, except children of the customer, who are
430 and have been members of the household for six months, or more.

431 Sec. 14. Subsection (j) of section 17b-261 of the general statutes is
432 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
433 *passage*):

434 (j) A veteran, as defined in section 27-103, and any member of his or
435 her family, who applies for or receives assistance under the Medicaid
436 program, shall apply for all benefits for which he or she may be
437 eligible through [the Veterans' Administration or] the United States
438 Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense.

439 Sec. 15. Section 26-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the
440 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

441 No fee shall be charged for any sport fishing license issued under
442 this chapter to any blind person, and such license shall be a lifetime
443 license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35. Proof
444 of such blindness shall be furnished, in the case of a veteran, by the
445 United States [Veterans' Administration] Department of Veterans
446 Affairs and, in the case of any other person, by the Department of
447 Rehabilitation Services. For the purpose of this section, a person shall
448 be blind only if his central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the
449 better eye with correcting lenses, or if his visual acuity is greater than
450 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such
451 that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no
452 greater than twenty degrees.

453 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes is
454 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
455 *passage*):

456 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as
457 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,
458 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve
459 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard
460 performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code; (2)
461 "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or released
462 under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces;
463 (3) "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative
464 days except, if the period of war lasted less than ninety days, "service
465 in time of war" means service for the entire period of war, unless
466 separated from service earlier because of a service-connected disability
467 rated by the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of
468 Veterans Affairs, during a period of war; and (4) "period of war" has
469 the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as amended, except that
470 the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning on February 28, 1961,

471 and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and "period of war" shall
472 include service while engaged in combat or a combat support role in
473 Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or September 29, 1982, to
474 March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15, 1983;
475 Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers
476 flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf, July 24, 1987, to
477 August 1, 1990; and Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990,
478 and shall include service during such periods with the armed forces of
479 any government associated with the United States.

480 Sec. 17. Section 27-110 of the general statutes is repealed and the
481 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

482 (a) When it appears that any veteran is eligible for treatment in a
483 [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of Veterans
484 Affairs facility, and commitment is necessary for the care and
485 treatment of such veteran, the court of probate of the district in which
486 the veteran is found may, upon receipt of a certificate of eligibility
487 from the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of
488 Veterans Affairs, and if the veteran is adjudged mentally ill in
489 accordance with law, direct such veteran's commitment to the
490 [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of Veterans
491 Affairs for hospitalization in a [Veterans' Administration] United
492 States Department of Veterans Affairs facility. Thereafter such veteran,
493 upon admission to any such facility, shall be subject to the rules and
494 regulations of the [Veterans' Administration] United States
495 Department of Veterans Affairs and the chief officer of such facility
496 shall be vested with the same powers as are exercised by
497 superintendents of state hospitals for mental illness within this state
498 with reference to the retention, transfer or parole of the veteran so
499 committed. Notice of such pending commitment proceedings shall be
500 furnished the person to be committed and his or her right to appear
501 and defend shall not be denied. Any court of probate may order the
502 discharge of such veteran, upon application and satisfactory proof that
503 such veteran has been restored to reason. The commitment of a veteran

504 to the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of
505 Veterans Affairs or other agency of the United States government by a
506 court of another state or of the District of Columbia, under a similar
507 provision of law, shall have the same force and effect as if such
508 commitment were made by a court of this state.

509 (b) Upon receipt of a certificate of the [Veterans' Administration]
510 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any other agency of
511 the United States that facilities are available for the care or treatment of
512 any veteran committed to any hospital for mental illness or other
513 institution for the care or treatment of persons similarly afflicted and
514 that such veteran is eligible for care or treatment, the superintendent of
515 such hospital or institution may cause the transfer of such person to
516 the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of Veterans
517 Affairs or other agency of the United States for care or treatment. Upon
518 effecting any such transfer, the committing court or proper officer
519 thereof shall be notified of such transfer by the transferring agency. No
520 person shall be transferred to the [Veterans' Administration] United
521 States Department of Veterans Affairs or other agency of the United
522 States if he or she is confined pursuant to conviction of any felony or
523 misdemeanor or if he or she has been acquitted of such a charge solely
524 on the ground of insanity, unless prior to transfer the court or other
525 authority originally committing such person enters an order for such
526 transfer after appropriate motion and hearing. Any person transferred
527 as provided in this section shall be deemed to be committed to the
528 [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of Veterans
529 Affairs or other agency of the United States pursuant to the original
530 commitment.

531 Sec. 18. Section 27-129 of the general statutes is repealed and the
532 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

533 When an application is filed for the appointment of a conservator
534 for an incompetent veteran, a certificate of the [Administrator of
535 Veterans'] Secretary of Veterans Affairs of the United States or his or

536 her authorized representative that such person has been rated
537 incompetent by the [Veterans' Administration] United States
538 Department of Veterans Affairs on examination in accordance with the
539 laws and regulations governing [such Veterans' Administration] the
540 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and that appointment of
541 a conservator is a condition precedent to the payment of any moneys
542 due such veteran by the [Veterans' Administration] United States
543 Department of Veterans Affairs, shall be prima facie evidence of the
544 necessity for such appointment.

545 Sec. 19. Subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 31-3uu of the
546 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
547 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

548 (5) "New employee" means a person who (A) was unemployed prior
549 to employment with an eligible business, regardless of whether such
550 person collected unemployment compensation benefits as a result of
551 such unemployment, (B) was a member of the armed forces and was
552 called to active service in support of (i) Operation Enduring Freedom,
553 or (ii) military operations that were authorized by the President of the
554 United States that entail military action against Iraq, and (C) was
555 honorably discharged after not less than ninety days of service in an
556 area designated by the President of the United States by executive
557 order as a combat zone, as indicated on a military discharge document,
558 as defined in section 1-219, unless separated from service earlier
559 because of a service-connected disability rated by the [Veterans'
560 Administration] United States Department of Veterans Affairs. "New
561 employee" does not include a person who was employed in this state
562 by a related person of such eligible business during any of the twelve
563 months prior to employment with the eligible business;

564 Sec. 20. Subsection (l) of section 36a-261 of the general statutes is
565 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
566 *passage*):

567 (l) Subject to such regulations and restrictions as the commissioner
568 finds necessary and proper, and subject to the limitations, restrictions
569 and privileges contained in this subsection, Connecticut banks are
570 authorized to make and invest in any loan which the [Administrator of
571 Veterans'] United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs guarantees,
572 makes a commitment to guarantee, or insures pursuant to Title III of
573 an Act of Congress entitled "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944",
574 as amended, without regard to the limitations and restrictions of this
575 title. (1) Each such loan shall be subject to the provisions of this title
576 prescribing the maximum limits, in amount, of: (A) A loan or loans to
577 or total liability of any one individual, and (B) a loan upon the security
578 of real estate, with relation to the appraised value of such real estate.
579 (2) Each such loan shall be secured by a mortgage on real estate, except
580 that a loan pursuant to Section 501, 502 or 503 of the Servicemen's
581 Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, for the purpose of repairing,
582 altering or improving a building or buildings, and a loan pursuant to
583 Section 505(a) of said act, need not be secured by a lien on real
584 property.

585 Sec. 21. Subsection (j) of section 36a-457b of the general statutes is
586 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
587 *passage*):

588 (j) Without regard to the limitations and restrictions of this section, a
589 Connecticut credit union may make and invest in any mortgage loan
590 which the [Administrator of Veterans'] United States Secretary of
591 Veterans Affairs guarantees, makes a commitment to guarantee or
592 insures.

593 Sec. 22. Subdivision (2) of section 36a-615 of the general statutes is
594 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
595 *passage*):

596 (2) "Loan broker" means any person who: (A) For or in expectation
597 of a fee (i) arranges, negotiates, places, solicits or finds an unsecured

598 loan; (ii) assists or advises a person in obtaining an unsecured loan; or
599 (iii) offers or attempts to engage in the activities described in
600 subparagraph (i) or (ii) of this subdivision; (B) acts for or on behalf of a
601 loan broker; (C) holds himself out to the public generally as a person
602 engaging in the activities described in subdivision (A) of this
603 subsection. A principal, officer, director, partner, joint venturer,
604 manager or other person with similar supervisory or managerial
605 responsibility for persons engaging in the activities described in
606 subdivisions (A) to (C), inclusive, of this subsection shall be deemed to
607 be a loan broker. "Loan broker" shall not include any bank, out-of-state
608 bank, Connecticut credit union, federal credit union, out-of-state credit
609 union, small loan licensee, nondepository mortgage lender, mortgage
610 correspondent lender or mortgage broker, sales finance company,
611 securities broker-dealer or investment adviser, investment company as
612 defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended from
613 time to time, forwarder of money, trustee under a mortgage or deed of
614 trust of real property, corporation exercising fiduciary powers, money
615 order and travelers check licensee, check cashing licensee, real estate
616 broker or agent, attorney, Federal Housing Authority or [Veterans'
617 Administration] United States Department of Veterans Affairs
618 approved lender, or insurance company; provided any such person or
619 entity so excluded is licensed by and subject to the regulation and
620 supervision of the appropriate regulatory agency of the United States
621 or this state or any other state and is acting within the scope of the
622 license.

623 Sec. 23. Section 36a-759 of the general statutes is repealed and the
624 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

625 The disability of minority of any person otherwise eligible for a
626 loan, or guaranty or insurance of a loan, pursuant to the act of the
627 Congress of the United States entitled the Servicemen's Readjustment
628 Act of 1944, as from time to time amended, and of the minor spouse or
629 unmarried widow of any eligible veteran, in connection with any
630 transaction entered into pursuant to [that] said act, shall not affect the

631 binding effect of any obligation incurred by such eligible person or
632 spouse or widow as an incident to any such transaction, including
633 incurring of indebtedness and acquiring, encumbering, selling,
634 releasing or conveying property, or any interest therein, if all or part of
635 any such obligation is guaranteed or insured by the federal
636 government or the [Administrator of Veterans'] United States Secretary
637 of Veterans Affairs pursuant to [that] said act; or, if the [administrator]
638 secretary is the creditor, by reason of a loan or a sale pursuant to [that]
639 said act. This section shall not create, or render enforceable, any other
640 or greater rights or liabilities than would exist if such person, such
641 spouse or such widow were not a minor.

642 Sec. 24. Section 45a-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the
643 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

644 When a copy of any probate record is required by the [Veterans'
645 Administration] United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be
646 used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in
647 benefits made available by the [Veterans' Administration] United
648 States Department of Veterans Affairs, the official charged with the
649 custody of such public record shall, without charge, provide the
650 applicant for such benefits, or any person acting on his or her behalf, or
651 the authorized representative of the [Veterans' Administration] United
652 States Department of Veterans Affairs, with a certified copy of such
653 record.

654 Sec. 25. Section 45a-593 of the general statutes is repealed and the
655 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

656 (a) The [Administrator of Veterans'] United States Secretary of
657 Veterans Affairs, created by Act of the Congress of the United States,
658 or the [administrator's] secretary's successor, shall be a party in interest
659 in any proceedings brought under any provision of the general statutes
660 for the appointment of a guardian or conservator of a veteran of any
661 war or other beneficiary on whose account benefits of compensation,

662 adjusted compensation, pension or insurance or other benefits are
663 payable by the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of
664 Veterans Affairs.

665 (b) The [Administrator of Veterans'] United States Secretary of
666 Veterans Affairs, or the [administrator's] secretary's successor, shall be
667 an interested party in the administration of the estate of any ward or
668 conserved person on whose account the benefits are payable or whose
669 estate includes assets derived from benefits paid by the [Veterans'
670 Administration] United States Department of Veterans Affairs, its
671 predecessor or successor.

672 (c) Written notice shall be given by regular mail, unless waived in
673 writing, to the division of the office of the [Veterans' Administration]
674 United States Department of Veterans Affairs having jurisdiction over
675 the area in which the court is located, of the time and place for a
676 hearing on any petition or pleading or in connection with any
677 proceeding pertaining to or affecting in any manner the administration
678 of the estate of any beneficiary of the [Veterans' Administration]
679 United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Notice shall be mailed
680 in time to reach such office not less than ten days before the date of the
681 hearing or other proceeding.

682 Sec. 26. Subsection (b) of section 45a-594 of the general statutes is
683 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
684 *passage*):

685 (b) Compensation payable to the conservator or guardian of any
686 veteran or other beneficiary of the [Veterans' Administration] United
687 States Department of Veterans Affairs for administering moneys paid
688 by the United States through the [Veterans' Administration] United
689 States Department of Veterans Affairs, or revenue or profit from any
690 property wholly or partially acquired therewith, shall be based upon
691 services rendered and shall not exceed five per cent of the amount of
692 moneys received during the period covered by the account. If

693 extraordinary services are rendered by any conservator or guardian,
694 the Court of Probate, upon petition and hearing, may authorize
695 reasonable additional compensation. A copy of the petition and notice
696 of hearing shall be given to the proper office of the [Veterans'
697 Administration] United States Department of Veterans Affairs in the
698 manner provided for hearing on other petitions or pleadings filed by
699 such conservators or guardians. No commission or compensation shall
700 be allowed on the moneys or other assets received from a prior
701 guardian nor upon the amount received from liquidation of loans or
702 other investments.

703 Sec. 27. Section 49-22a of the general statutes is repealed and the
704 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

705 In any action brought for the foreclosure of a mortgage upon land
706 where the court may, in accordance with the provisions of section 49-
707 22, issue execution of ejectment to the plaintiff and the mortgage loan
708 has been guaranteed by the [Administrator of Veterans'] United States
709 Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to Title III of an Act of Congress
710 entitled "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944", the court may issue
711 execution of ejectment to put in possession of such land the
712 [Administrator of Veterans'] United States Secretary of Veterans
713 Affairs, upon the filing by the plaintiff of an affidavit that (1) the
714 guarantee has been honored by the [Administrator of Veterans'
715 Affairs] United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, (2) the plaintiff's
716 title to the property has been conveyed to the [Administrator of
717 Veterans'] United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs who has become
718 subrogated to all the rights of the plaintiff in the property and (3) the
719 foreclosure judgment has been assigned to the [Administrator of
720 Veterans'] United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

721 Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 49-31i of the general statutes is
722 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
723 *passage*):

724 (a) In determining the restructured mortgage debt, the court shall
725 add the following to the existing principal balance of the mortgage
726 debt: (1) All interest then due the lender and any interest that will be
727 earned to the end of any restructuring period, including interest on
728 any payments advanced by the lender during the restructuring period,
729 such interest to be computed at the rate provided in the mortgage note,
730 (2) real property taxes, (3) premiums for Federal Housing
731 Administration, [Veterans' Administration] United States Department
732 of Veterans Affairs and private mortgage insurance, and (4) court
733 costs, legal fees and any other sums the court determines to be due
734 under the terms of the mortgage indebtedness by the court. The court
735 shall then apply the composite interest rate as provided in subsection
736 (c) of this section to such total restructured debt over the remaining
737 term of the loan.

738 Sec. 29. Subsection (b) of section 51-49h of the general statutes is
739 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
740 *passage*):

741 (b) Any such judge, any family support magistrate or any
742 compensation commissioner who is a veteran may receive credit for
743 retirement purposes for military service, if such judge, family support
744 magistrate or compensation commissioner makes retirement
745 contributions for each month of military service equal to one-twelfth of
746 five per cent of his first year's salary as a judge, family support
747 magistrate or compensation commissioner multiplied by the total
748 number of months of such military service, except that (1) no
749 retirement contribution shall be made for service as a prisoner of war,
750 and (2) no credit shall be allowed for military service to any such
751 judge, family support magistrate or compensation commissioner who
752 has served less than ten years as a judge, family support magistrate or
753 compensation commissioner, nor for more than fifty per cent of such
754 military service or three years, whichever is less. Service credit for
755 military service for retirement purposes other than service as a
756 prisoner of war shall not be granted until payment of contributions is

757 completed. Any application for military service credit under this
 758 section for service as a prisoner of war shall be accompanied by
 759 sufficient proof from [the Veterans' Administration of] the United
 760 States Department of Veterans Affairs that such judge, family support
 761 magistrate or compensation commissioner is a former prisoner of war.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	3-62b(5)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	4a-82(a)(1)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	5-224
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	7-313c(b)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	7-415
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	7-436b(b)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	10a-166(a)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	12-81(20) to (24)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	12-81g(a)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	14-21d(a)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	14-254
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	16-262c(b)(3)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	16a-22m(b)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	17b-261(j)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	26-29
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	27-103(a)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	27-110
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	27-129
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	31-3uu(a)(5)
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	36a-261(l)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	36a-457b(j)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	36a-615(2)
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	36a-759
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	45a-12
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	45a-593
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	45a-594(b)
Sec. 27	<i>from passage</i>	49-22a
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	49-31i(a)
Sec. 29	<i>from passage</i>	51-49h(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To make technical changes to the general statutes.

[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.]