



# House of Representatives

**File No. 864**

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**(Reprint of File No. 95)**

House Bill No. 6561  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 24, 2013

**AN ACT CREATING THE CONNECTICUT MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT  
AND THE CIVILIAN MEDAL OF HONOR.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Adjutant General and  
2 two officers of field grade or above, appointed by the Adjutant  
3 General, shall constitute a board of officers to receive  
4 recommendations, through military channels, for the award, within  
5 available appropriations, of the medal of achievement to any member  
6 of the Connecticut National Guard who has distinguished himself or  
7 herself through outstanding achievement or meritorious service  
8 during the performance of any state military service, including  
9 military service described in section 27-61 of the general statutes and  
10 military service performed pursuant to chapter 518 of the general  
11 statutes. A bronze oak leaf cluster shall be issued in lieu of succeeding  
12 awards and a silver oak leaf cluster shall be worn in lieu of five bronze  
13 oak leaf clusters.

14 Sec. 2. Section 27-73a of the general statutes is repealed and the

15 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

16 The Adjutant General, at his or her discretion, may issue an  
17 appropriate service ribbon to all members of the armed forces of the  
18 state ordered to active duty in time of emergency [in accordance with  
19 section 27-14] for upholding the law and preserving order, [or]  
20 protecting lives and property, [or] assisting civil authorities, [or the]  
21 providing aid and relief [of] to civilians in disaster or similar service  
22 ordered by the Governor. A bronze oak leaf cluster shall be issued in  
23 lieu of succeeding awards and a silver oak leaf cluster [may] shall be  
24 worn in lieu of [three] five bronze oak leaf clusters. [This section shall  
25 apply to service rendered on or after August 19, 1955.]

26 Sec. 3. Section 27-73b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

28 The Adjutant General shall issue an appropriate service ribbon to all  
29 members of the unit declared to be the outstanding company-size unit  
30 in the Connecticut National Guard in accordance with National Guard  
31 regulations, provided such members participated in at least fifty per  
32 cent of the unit's training activities during the period covered by the  
33 award. A bronze oak leaf cluster shall be issued in lieu of succeeding  
34 awards and a silver oak leaf cluster [may] shall be worn in lieu of  
35 [three] five bronze oak leaf clusters. [These awards shall be made  
36 retroactive to 1947.]

37 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) The Commissioner of  
38 Emergency Services and Public Protection is authorized, within  
39 available appropriations, to award the civilian medal of honor, in  
40 accordance with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this  
41 section, directly or posthumously to any citizen of the state in  
42 recognition of a valorous and heroic deed performed in saving a life or  
43 for injury or death or threat of injury or death incurred in the service of  
44 the state or such citizen's community or on behalf of the health, welfare  
45 or safety of other persons.

46 (b) Recommendations for the civilian medal of honor may be

47 submitted to the commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by  
 48 the commissioner, by any member of the public. The commissioner  
 49 shall forward such recommendations to a selection board consisting of  
 50 members appointed as follows: One member appointed by the  
 51 Governor, two members appointed by the Commissioner of  
 52 Emergency Services and Public Protection, one member appointed by  
 53 the president pro tempore of the Senate, one member appointed by the  
 54 speaker of the House of Representatives, one member appointed by  
 55 the majority leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the  
 56 minority leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the majority  
 57 leader of the House of Representatives and one member appointed by  
 58 the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The board  
 59 member selected by the Governor shall act as chairperson of the  
 60 selection board and shall call meetings of the selection board, which  
 61 shall occur at least once each calendar year.

62 (c) The selection board shall review recommendations for the  
 63 civilian medal of honor submitted by the public and shall select  
 64 nominees for such medal, giving due consideration to the criteria  
 65 described in subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner shall  
 66 review the selection board's nominations and award the civilian medal  
 67 of honor to any such nominee whom the commissioner deems  
 68 deserving.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	27-73a
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	27-73b
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	New section

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.	GF - Cost	25,000	5,000
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	25,000	500

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which creates a civilian medal of honor, is anticipated to result in costs to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) of:

1. \$25,000 in medal design and manufacturing costs in FY 14.
2. \$500 per year starting in FY 15 from the anticipated issuance of two medals per year.

There is no cost to DESPP to develop and implement the annual medal selection process.

sHB 6350, the FY 14 and FY 15 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, allows carry forward funding for DESPP in the amount of \$25,500 for this purpose. It is estimated that \$25,500 will be carried forward.

The bill, which also creates the medal of achievement, is anticipated to result in costs to the Military Department of:

1. \$20,000 in design and medal manufacturing costs in FY 14.

2. \$5,000 per year starting in FY 14 related to the anticipated issuance of 200 medals.

sHB 6350, the FY 14 and FY 15 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriated \$25,000 in FY 14 and \$5,000 in FY 15 for this purpose.

House "A" struck the original bill and results in the fiscal impact as stated above.

***The Out Years***

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

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6561 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING VETERANS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill concerns awards for members of the state military and establishes a civilian medal of honor.

The bill establishes a medal of achievement to be awarded, within available appropriations, by the adjutant general to any Connecticut National Guard or Air National Guard member. It specifies (1) eligibility criteria, (2) a selection method, and (3) how the award must be displayed.

It also authorizes the emergency services and public protection commissioner, within available appropriations, to award the civilian medal of honor, directly or posthumously, to any Connecticut citizen. The bill specifies (1) eligibility criteria and (2) a selection method.

The bill also makes changes to provisions authorizing the adjutant general to award emergency service and outstanding unit awards. It requires recipients of these awards to wear a silver oak leaf cluster in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters, rather than allow them to wear a silver cluster in lieu of three bronze clusters, as is current law.

Lastly, the bill makes minor and technical changes.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which required the Department of Veterans' Affairs to study and report on hardships that Connecticut veterans are facing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except provisions regarding the

civilian medal of honor are effective October 1, 2013.

## **§ 1 — MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT**

### ***Eligibility***

Under the bill, any Connecticut National Guard and Air National Guard member may be awarded a medal of achievement for outstanding achievement or meritorious service during state military service, including service ordered by the governor without federally authorized pay and emergency service in other states performed pursuant to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

### ***Selection***

The bill requires the adjutant general to appoint and work with two officers of field grade (i.e., the rank of Major in the Army, Air Force, and Marines) or above, to select medal recipients from recommendations made through military channels.

### ***Display***

Medal recipients receive bronze oak leaf clusters for subsequent awards. They must wear a silver cluster in place of five bronze clusters.

## **§ 4 — MEDAL OF HONOR**

### ***Eligibility***

Under the bill, any Connecticut citizen, living or deceased, may be awarded a civilian medal of honor in recognition of (1) a valorous and heroic deed performed in saving a life or (2) injury or death or threat of such incurred (a) in the service of the state or the person's community or (b) on behalf of the health, welfare, or safety of other people.

### ***Selection***

The bill allows any member of the public to submit recommendations for the award to the commissioner, in the form and manner he prescribes. The commissioner must forward recommendations to a selection board, which must review them and select nominees, giving due consideration to the selection criteria. The

commissioner must review the board's nominations and award the medal to any such nominee he deems deserving.

**Selection Board.** The nine-member selection board consists of (1) one member each appointed by the six top legislative leaders and the governor and (2) two members appointed by the commissioner. The governor's appointee serves as the chairperson and must call at least one meeting per year.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Medals, Awards, and Ribbons***

The state awards the following decorations and awards to state armed forces members, including National Guard members:

1. Long service medal,
2. Medal of valor,
3. Medal of merit,
4. Emergency service awards,
5. Outstanding unit awards,
6. Selected reserve force awards,
7. Service ribbons for military operations after September 11, 2001,
8. Ribbons and medals for veterans who served in time of war, and
9. Achievement ribbons

### ***Related Bills***

HB 6597 (File 375), reported favorably by the Public Safety and Security and Appropriations committees, establishes the civilian medal of honor.

HB 6455 (File 135), reported favorably by the Veterans' Affairs Committee, establishes a medal of achievement for Connecticut

military.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/07/2013)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 52 Nay 0 (04/22/2013)