



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 153

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5299

House of Representatives, March 27, 2014

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 FINDINGS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TASK FORCE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the 2014 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

4 (b) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law
5 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person
6 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
7 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve
8 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification
9 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection
10 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection,
11 the council may establish other qualifications for the employment of
12 police officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these
13 qualifications. The certification of any police officer who is not
14 employed by a law enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of

15 two years, unless such officer is on leave of absence, shall be
16 considered lapsed. Upon reemployment as a police officer, such officer
17 shall apply for recertification in a manner provided by the council. The
18 council shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of
19 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in
20 another state or as part of training during service in the armed forces,
21 as defined in section 27-103, that is equivalent in content and quality to
22 that required in this state, provided such applicant passes an
23 examination or evaluation as required by the council.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the 2014 supplement to the
25 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
26 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

27 (e) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued until (A)
28 the applicant signs and files with the commissioner an application
29 under oath, or made subject to penalties for false statement in
30 accordance with section 53a-157b, and (B) the commissioner is satisfied
31 that the applicant is sixteen years of age or older and is a suitable
32 person to receive the license.

33 (2) An applicant for a new motor vehicle operator's license shall, in
34 the discretion of the commissioner, file, with the application, a copy of
35 such applicant's birth certificate or other prima facie evidence of date
36 of birth and evidence of identity.

37 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not
38 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or who
39 has not operated a motor vehicle during the preceding two years, the
40 commissioner shall require the applicant to demonstrate personally to
41 the commissioner, a deputy or a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of
42 the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, that
43 the applicant is a proper person to operate motor vehicles of the class
44 for which such applicant has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the
45 mechanism of the motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him
46 or her and has satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor
47 vehicles and the rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant

48 for a class D motor vehicle operator's license may be administered in
49 such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio,
50 electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be
51 administered in English, Spanish or any language spoken at home by
52 at least one per cent of the state's population, according to statistics
53 prepared by the United States Census Bureau, based on the most
54 recent decennial census. Each such knowledge test shall include a
55 question concerning highway work zone safety and the responsibilities
56 of an operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d. Each such
57 knowledge test shall include not less than one question concerning
58 distracted driving, the use of mobile telephones and electronic devices
59 by motor vehicle operators or the responsibilities of motor vehicle
60 operators under section 14-296aa. If any such applicant has held a
61 license from a state, territory or possession of the United States where
62 a similar examination is required, [or if any such applicant is a person
63 honorably separated from the United States armed forces who applies
64 within two years following the separation and who, prior to the
65 separation, held a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the
66 same class as that for which such applicant has applied,] the
67 commissioner may waive part or all of the examination. If any such
68 applicant is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who applies not
69 later than two years after the date of discharge from the military and
70 who, prior to such discharge, held a military operator's license for
71 motor vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has
72 applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the examination, except in
73 the case of commercial motor vehicle licenses, the commissioner shall
74 only waive the driving skills test for such veteran who meets the
75 conditions set forth in 40 CFR 383.77. When the commissioner is
76 satisfied as to the ability and competency of any applicant, the
77 commissioner may issue to such applicant a license, either unlimited or
78 containing such limitations as the commissioner deems advisable, and
79 specifying the class of motor vehicles which the licensee is eligible to
80 operate.

81 (4) If any applicant or operator license holder has any health
82 problem which might affect such person's ability to operate a motor

83 vehicle safely, the commissioner may require the applicant or license
84 holder to demonstrate personally or otherwise establish that,
85 notwithstanding such problem, such applicant or license holder is a
86 proper person to operate a motor vehicle, and the commissioner may
87 further require a certificate of such applicant's condition, signed by a
88 medical authority designated by the commissioner, which certificate
89 shall in all cases be treated as confidential by the commissioner. A
90 license, containing such limitation as the commissioner deems
91 advisable, may be issued or renewed in any case, but nothing in this
92 section shall be construed to prevent the commissioner from refusing a
93 license, either limited or unlimited, to any person or suspending a
94 license of a person whom the commissioner determines to be incapable
95 of safely operating a motor vehicle. Consistent with budgetary
96 allotments, each motor vehicle operator's license issued to or renewed
97 by a deaf or hearing impaired person shall, upon the request of such
98 person, indicate such impairment. Such person shall submit a
99 certificate stating such impairment, in such form as the commissioner
100 may require and signed by a licensed health care practitioner.

101 (5) The issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license to any
102 applicant who is the holder of a license issued by another state shall be
103 subject to the provisions of sections 14-111c and 14-111k.

104 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the 2014 supplement to the
105 general statutes, as amended by section 2 of public act 13-89, is
106 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
107 *January 1, 2015*):

108 (e) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued until (A)
109 the applicant signs and files with the commissioner an application
110 under oath, or made subject to penalties for false statement in
111 accordance with section 53a-157b, and (B) the commissioner is satisfied
112 that the applicant is sixteen years of age or older and is a suitable
113 person to receive the license.

114 (2) Except any applicant described in section 14-36m, an applicant
115 for a new motor vehicle operator's license shall, in the discretion of the

116 commissioner, file, with the application, a copy of such applicant's
117 birth certificate or other prima facie evidence of date of birth and
118 evidence of identity.

119 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not
120 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or who
121 has not operated a motor vehicle during the preceding two years, the
122 commissioner shall require the applicant to demonstrate personally to
123 the commissioner, a deputy or a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of
124 the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, that
125 the applicant is a proper person to operate motor vehicles of the class
126 for which such applicant has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the
127 mechanism of the motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him
128 or her and has satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor
129 vehicles and the rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant
130 for a class D motor vehicle operator's license may be administered in
131 such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio,
132 electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be
133 administered in English, Spanish or any language spoken at home by
134 at least one per cent of the state's population, according to statistics
135 prepared by the United States Census Bureau, based on the most
136 recent decennial census. If any such applicant has held a license from a
137 state, territory or possession of the United States where a similar
138 examination is required, [or if any such applicant is a person
139 honorably separated from the United States armed forces who applies
140 within two years following the separation and who, prior to the
141 separation, held a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the
142 same class as that for which such applicant has applied,] the
143 commissioner may waive part or all of the examination. If any such
144 applicant is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who applies not
145 later than two years after the date of discharge from the military and
146 who, prior to such discharge, held a military operator's license for
147 motor vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has
148 applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the examination, except in
149 the case of commercial motor vehicle licenses, the commissioner shall
150 only waive the driving skills test for such veteran who meets the

151 conditions set forth in 40 CFR 383.77. When the commissioner is
152 satisfied as to the ability and competency of any applicant, the
153 commissioner may issue to such applicant a license, either unlimited or
154 containing such limitations as the commissioner deems advisable, and
155 specifying the class of motor vehicles which the licensee is eligible to
156 operate.

157 (4) If any applicant or operator license holder has any health
158 problem which might affect such person's ability to operate a motor
159 vehicle safely, the commissioner may require the applicant or license
160 holder to demonstrate personally or otherwise establish that,
161 notwithstanding such problem, such applicant or license holder is a
162 proper person to operate a motor vehicle, and the commissioner may
163 further require a certificate of such applicant's condition, signed by a
164 medical authority designated by the commissioner, which certificate
165 shall in all cases be treated as confidential by the commissioner. A
166 license, containing such limitation as the commissioner deems
167 advisable, may be issued or renewed in any case, but nothing in this
168 section shall be construed to prevent the commissioner from refusing a
169 license, either limited or unlimited, to any person or suspending a
170 license of a person whom the commissioner determines to be incapable
171 of safely operating a motor vehicle. Consistent with budgetary
172 allotments, each motor vehicle operator's license issued to or renewed
173 by a deaf or hearing impaired person shall, upon the request of such
174 person, indicate such impairment. Such person shall submit a
175 certificate stating such impairment, in such form as the commissioner
176 may require and signed by a licensed health care practitioner.

177 (5) The issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license to any
178 applicant who is the holder of a license issued by another state shall be
179 subject to the provisions of sections 14-111c and 14-111k.

180 Sec. 4. Section 20-333a of the general statutes is repealed and the
181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

182 (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, upon the
183 payment of the appropriate fee, as provided in section 20-335, grant a

184 license or a card of registration provided for in this chapter, without an
185 examination, to any currently practicing, competent person who holds
186 a similar license or card of registration granted by any other state,
187 licensure jurisdiction within another state, the District of Columbia or
188 any territory or commonwealth of the United States having licensure
189 or registration requirements substantially similar to, or higher than,
190 those of this state, if the licensing authority in such other state,
191 licensure jurisdiction within another state, the District of Columbia or
192 any territory or commonwealth of the United States may grant such
193 similar license or card of registration, without an examination, to any
194 currently practicing, competent licensee or registrant from this state.

195 (b) (1) The commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate
196 examining board, shall grant a license or a card of registration
197 provided for in this chapter, without an examination, to any person
198 who, within two years of such persons' discharge from the armed
199 forces, as defined in section 27-103, presents (A) evidence of
200 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction as part of
201 military training that is equivalent in content and quality to that
202 required in this state, and (B) such person's military discharge
203 document or a certified copy thereof. For the purposes of this
204 subsection, "military discharge document" has the same meaning as
205 provided in section 1-219.

206 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to change the
207 delegation of authority by the commissioner to the relevant examining
208 boards pursuant to this chapter. In issuing a license or a card of
209 registration, each such board shall provide credit for satisfactory
210 completion of a program or course of instruction as part of military
211 training that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in
212 this state as described in this subsection.

213 (c) The commissioner, with the advice and consent of the
214 appropriate examining board, may adopt regulations in accordance
215 with the provisions of chapter 54 in order to carry out the provisions of
216 this section.

217 Sec. 5. Section 29-161q of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
218 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
219 *October 1, 2014*):

220 (a) Any security service or business may employ as many security
221 officers as such security service or business deems necessary for the
222 conduct of the business, provided such security officers are of good
223 moral character and at least eighteen years of age.

224 (b) No person hired or otherwise engaged to perform work as a
225 security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, shall perform the duties
226 of a security officer prior to being licensed as a security officer by the
227 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Each
228 applicant for a license shall complete a minimum of eight hours
229 training in the following areas: Basic first aid, search and seizure laws
230 and regulations, use of force, basic criminal justice and public safety
231 issues. The commissioner shall waive such training for any person
232 who, within two years of such person's discharge from the armed
233 forces, as defined in section 27-103, presents proof that such person has
234 completed military training that is equivalent to the training required
235 by this subsection, and such person's military discharge document or a
236 certified copy thereof. For purposes of this subsection, "military
237 discharge document" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-
238 219. The training shall be approved by the commissioner in accordance
239 with regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-161x.

240 (1) On and after October 1, 2008, no person or employee of an
241 association, corporation or partnership shall conduct such training
242 without the approval of the commissioner except as provided in
243 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Application for such approval shall
244 be submitted on forms prescribed by the commissioner and
245 accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. Such application shall be made
246 under oath and shall contain the applicant's name, address, date and
247 place of birth, employment for the previous five years, education or
248 training in the subjects required to be taught under this subsection, any
249 convictions for violations of the law and such other information as the

250 commissioner may require by regulation adopted pursuant to section
251 29-161x to properly investigate the character, competency and integrity
252 of the applicant. No person shall be approved as an instructor for such
253 training who has been convicted of a felony, a sexual offense or a crime
254 of moral turpitude or who has been denied approval as a security
255 service licensee, a security officer or instructor in the security industry
256 by any licensing authority, or whose approval has been revoked or
257 suspended. The term for such approval shall not exceed two years. Not
258 later than two business days after a change of address, any person
259 approved as an instructor in accordance with this section shall notify
260 the commissioner of such change and such notification shall include
261 both the old and new addresses.

262 (2) If a security officer training course described in this subsection is
263 approved by the commissioner on or before September 30, 2008, the
264 instructor of such course shall have until April 1, 2009, to apply for
265 approval as an instructor in accordance with subdivision (1) of this
266 subsection.

267 (3) Each person approved as an instructor in accordance with this
268 section may apply for the renewal of such approval on a form
269 approved by the commissioner, accompanied by a fee of forty dollars.
270 Such form may require the disclosure of any information necessary for
271 the commissioner to determine whether the instructor's suitability to
272 serve as an instructor has changed since the issuance of the prior
273 approval. The term of such renewed approval shall not exceed two
274 years.

275 (c) Not later than two years after successful completion of the
276 training required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or the
277 waiver of such training, the applicant may submit an application for a
278 license as a security officer on forms furnished by the commissioner
279 and, under oath, shall give the applicant's name, address, date and
280 place of birth, employment for the previous five years, experience in
281 the position applied for, including military training and weapons
282 qualifications, any convictions for violations of the law and such other

283 information as the commissioner may require, by regulation, to
284 properly investigate the character, competency and integrity of the
285 applicant. Applicants shall submit with their application two sets of
286 fingerprints of the employee and the Commissioner of Emergency
287 Services and Public Protection shall require any applicant for a license
288 under this section to submit to state and national criminal history
289 records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.
290 Applicants shall submit with their application two sets of their
291 fingerprints and two full-face photographs of them, two inches wide
292 by two inches high, taken not earlier than six months prior to the date
293 of application, and a one-hundred-dollar licensing fee, made payable
294 to the state. Subject to the provisions of section 46a-80, no person shall
295 be approved for a license who has been convicted of a felony, any
296 sexual offense or any crime involving moral turpitude, or who has
297 been refused a license under the provisions of sections 29-161g to 29-
298 161x, inclusive, for any reason except minimum experience, or whose
299 license, having been granted, has been revoked or is under suspension.
300 Upon being satisfied of the suitability of the applicant for licensure, the
301 commissioner may license the applicant as a security officer. Such
302 license shall be renewed every five years for a one-hundred-dollar fee.

303 (d) Upon the security officer's successful completion of training and
304 licensing by the commissioner, or immediately upon hiring a licensed
305 security officer, the security service employing such security officer
306 shall apply to register such security officer with the commissioner on
307 forms provided by the commissioner. Such application shall be
308 accompanied by payment of a forty-dollar application fee payable to
309 the state. The Division of State Police within the Department of
310 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall keep on file the
311 completed registration form and all related material. An identification
312 card with the name, date of birth, address, full-face photograph,
313 physical descriptors and signature of the applicant shall be issued to
314 the security officer, and shall be carried by the security officer at all
315 times while performing the duties associated with the security officer's
316 employment. Registered security officers, in the course of performing
317 their duties, shall present such card for inspection upon the request of

318 a law enforcement officer.

319 (e) The security service shall notify the commissioner not later than
320 five days after the termination of employment of any registered
321 employee.

322 (f) Any fee or portion of a fee paid pursuant to this section shall not
323 be refundable.

324 (g) No person, firm or corporation shall employ or otherwise engage
325 any person as a security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, unless
326 such person is a licensed security officer.

327 (h) Any person, firm or corporation that violates any provision of
328 subsection (b), (d), (e) or (g) of this section shall be fined seventy-five
329 dollars for each offense. Each distinct violation of this section shall be a
330 separate offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, each day
331 thereof shall be deemed a separate offense.

332 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) An institution of higher
333 education shall award college credit for military occupational specialty
334 training to a veteran who enrolls at such institution and has experience
335 in a military occupation recognized by such institution as substituting
336 for or meeting the requirements of a particular course of study. For the
337 purposes of this section, "veteran" means a person who is (1) a veteran,
338 as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes, or (2) eligible to
339 receive services from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
340 pursuant to Title 38 of the United States Code.

341 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, the Board of Regents for Higher
342 Education and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut,
343 in consultation with the institutions of higher education in the state,
344 shall develop and adopt guidelines on awarding academic credit for a
345 student's military training, coursework and education. Such guidelines
346 shall include course equivalency recommendations adopted by the
347 American Council on Education and by other institutions or
348 organizations deemed reputable by the Board of Regents for Higher

349 Education and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut.
350 Until the adoption of such guidelines, any institution of higher
351 education that awards college credit for such training, coursework and
352 education shall use course equivalency recommendations adopted by
353 the American Council on Education when assigning college credit to a
354 military occupation. Upon adoption of such guidelines, the governing
355 body of each institution of higher education in the state shall develop
356 and implement policies governing the awarding of college credit for a
357 student's military training, coursework and education.

358 Sec. 7. Section 31-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
359 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

360 (a) The Labor Commissioner shall collect information upon the
361 subject of labor, its relation to capital, the hours of labor, the earnings
362 of laboring men and women and the means of promoting their
363 material, social, intellectual and moral prosperity, and shall have
364 power to summon and examine under oath such witnesses, and may
365 direct the production of, and examine or cause to be produced and
366 examined, such books, records, vouchers, memoranda, documents,
367 letters, contracts or other papers in relation thereto as he deems
368 necessary, and shall have the same powers in relation thereto as are
369 vested in magistrates in taking depositions, but for this purpose
370 persons shall not be required to leave the vicinity of their residences or
371 places of business. Said commissioner shall collect and collate
372 population and employment data to project who is working, who is
373 not working and who will be entering the job market and shall provide
374 an analysis of data concerning present job requirements and potential
375 needs of new industry. The commissioner shall include in his annual
376 report to the Governor, as provided in section 4-60, all the aforesaid
377 statistical details.

378 (b) The commissioner shall administer the coordination of all
379 employment and training programs in the state and shall implement
380 the plan of the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission as
381 approved by the Governor. The commissioner shall develop and

382 maintain a comprehensive inventory of all employment and training
 383 programs in the state, including a listing of all funding sources for each
 384 program, the characteristics of the persons served, a description of
 385 each program and its results and the identification of areas of program
 386 overlap and duplication.

387 (c) The commissioner shall provide staff to the Connecticut
 388 Employment and Training Commission and such other resources as
 389 the commissioner can make available.

390 (d) The commissioner may request the Attorney General to bring an
 391 action in Superior Court for injunctive relief requiring compliance with
 392 any statute, regulation, order or permit administered, adopted or
 393 issued by the commissioner.

394 (e) The commissioner shall ensure that state agencies recognize and
 395 accept military training and experience whenever a veteran applies for
 396 a professional or occupational license. For the purposes of this section,
 397 "veteran" means a person who is (1) a veteran, as defined in section 27-
 398 103, or (2) eligible to receive services from the United States
 399 Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to Title 38 of the United
 400 States Code.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	7-294d(b)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2014	14-36(e)
Sec. 3	January 1, 2015	14-36(e)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2014	20-333a
Sec. 5	October 1, 2014	29-161q
Sec. 6	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 7	July 1, 2014	31-2

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

For the purposes of clarity, sections 2 and 3 were rephrased; the term "occupational licensing boards" was removed from section 4 for consistency; and the definition of "service member" in section 8 was rephrased for clarity.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	less than 25,000	less than 25,000

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	less than 5,000	less than 5,000

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill results in a potential revenue loss to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) by requiring the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to certify those individuals who have undergone certain military training. The current tuition for a municipal recruit to attend basic training at POST is \$1,500 and DESPP would realize a revenue loss, anticipated to be less than \$25,000 annually, for each police officer certified under the provisions of this bill without attending POST basic training.

To the extent that an individual is hired by a police department, the department will realize a \$1,500 savings associated with not having to send said recruit through basic training. The municipal savings would be dependent upon the number of qualifying candidates and are not anticipated to exceed \$5,000 per year.

Section 2 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to waive the examination fee for a veteran who has held a military operator's license and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as it

conforms to current practice. Current law allows DMV the discretion to waive a portion or the entire fee for veterans who have held a military operator's license. In FY 13 DMV waived 744 examinations fees for veterans.

Section 3 requires DMV to waive the knowledge test for a commercial motor vehicle license (CDL) for a veteran who has held a military CDL and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as it conforms to current practice. In FY 13 DMV waived 9 CDL knowledge test fees for veterans.

Section 4 results in no fiscal impact to the state as examination fees are paid to third-party vendors.

Section 5 of the bill requires DESPP to waive the training requirement for security officer certification for certain individuals with relevant military training. There is no cost associated with this provision of the bill.

Section 6 results in no fiscal impact to the state as the requirements are already in place under federal policy.

Section 7 requires the Labor Commissioner to ensure that state agencies recognize and accept military training and experience whenever a veteran applies for a professional or occupational license. To the extent that the Labor Commissioner has the authority to do so, this provision is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the Office of Veterans' Workforce Development within the Department of Labor would be able to accomplish this without additional personnel or outside expertise.

The Out Years

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

*Sources: Department of Motor Vehicles
Veterans' Affairs Committee 2/25/14 Public Hearing Testimony*

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5299*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINDINGS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TASK FORCE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires various governmental entities to certify, waive, grant, or award certain licenses, registrations, examinations, training, or credit for veterans with military experience or qualifications similar to those otherwise required.

For qualified veterans, the bill requires the:

1. Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to certify them as police officers;
2. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to waive certain examinations or tests for motor vehicle operator's licenses;
3. Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), in consultation with the appropriate boards, to grant certain occupational licenses or registrations without examination;
4. Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to waive security guard training; and
5. higher education institutions to award college credit.

The bill also requires the Department of Labor (DOL) commissioner to ensure state agencies recognize and accept military training and experience whenever a veteran applies for a professional or occupational license. She must do this for those who are eligible to receive services from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. (It is unclear how the DOL commissioner can accomplish these goals

because she does not have the authority to grant occupational licenses.)

Under the bill, unless specifically noted, a veteran is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service from the armed forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any of their reserve components).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014, except for the higher education and labor commissioner provisions, which are effective July 1, 2014.

POLICE OFFICERS

The bill requires POST to certify any applicant who shows that he or she satisfactorily completed a training program or course of instruction in the armed forces that is equivalent in content and quality to state requirements, provided the applicant passes a POST-approved examination or evaluation.

By law, police officers must be POST-certified within one year of employment and, by regulation, the council's entry-level requirements include personal interviews, fingerprint examination, background investigation, psychological examination, criminal history record check, controlled substance screen, and physical fitness and medical tests.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES

The bill requires the DMV commissioner to waive all, instead of allowing her to waive all or part of, examinations for motor vehicle licenses, except the driving skills test for commercial motor vehicle licenses, for veterans who (1) apply within two years after their military discharge and (2) before military discharge, held a military operator's license to drive the same class of vehicles allowed under their prospective license. By law, when the commissioner is satisfied with the ability and competency of any applicant, she may issue an unlimited license or one with limitations, and specify the motor vehicle class the licensee is eligible to operate.

Commercial Motor Vehicle License

Under the bill, the DMV commissioner can waive the commercial motor vehicle driving skills test only if the veteran meets conditions set by federal regulation. If he or she does, the commissioner can substitute for the driving test, the veteran's driving record in combination with certain driving experience. The veteran must hold a military commercial motor vehicle license when applying for the state license.

Pursuant to federal regulations, DMV must require the veteran to certify that during, the two-year period prior to applying for the commercial motor vehicle license, he or she has not had:

1. more than one license (except for a military license);
2. any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;
3. any type of motor vehicle conviction that would disqualify an applicant from getting a commercial license (e.g., driving under the influence);
4. more than one conviction for a serious traffic violation (e.g., driving recklessly); and
5. any conviction for violating any military, state, or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) in connection with any traffic accident or any record of an accident where he or she was at fault.

The veteran must also provide evidence and certify that he or she:

1. is or was regularly employed within the last 90 days in a military position that required operating a commercial motor vehicle,
2. was exempted from the commercial motor vehicle license requirements under federal regulation (e.g., active duty military personnel, member of the military reserves, national guard on active duty); and

3. was operating a vehicle for at least two years immediately before military discharge that is representative of the type he or she operates or expects to operate.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS

The bill requires the DCP commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate examining board, to grant a qualified veteran an occupational license or registration card without an examination. The veteran must apply within two years of his or her military discharge and present (1) evidence of satisfactorily completing a military training program or course of instruction equivalent in content and quality to what the state requires and (2) his or her discharge document or a certified copy of it.

The affected occupational licenses include those for electricians; plumbers; solar, heating, piping, and cooling contractors and journeymen; elevator and fire protection sprinkler craftsmen; and irrigation contractors and journeymen.

The bill specifies that it does not change the DCP commissioner's delegation of authority to the relevant examining boards. In issuing a license or registration card, each board must provide credit for satisfactorily completing a program or instruction course as part of military training that is equivalent in content and quality to what the state requires.

SECURITY GUARDS

The bill requires DESPP to waive security guard training for any veteran who (1) presents proof that he or she has completed state-equivalent training in the military and (2) provides his or her discharge document or a certified copy of it. Current law requires each applicant for a security guard license to complete at least eight hours of training in basic first aid, search and seizure laws and regulations, use of force, and basic criminal justice and public safety issues.

Similar to security guards who pass the training, the bill requires a veteran to submit his or her security guard license application within

two years after the security guard training waiver. It also expands the information that all applicants must submit to include military training and weapons qualifications.

HIGHER EDUCATION CREDIT

The bill requires higher education institutions to award college credit for military occupational specialty training to the veterans enrolled at the institution. The veteran must have experience in a military occupation the institution recognizes as substituting or meeting the requirements of a particular course of study. A veteran also includes anyone eligible to receive services from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Guidelines for Awarding Credit

The bill requires, by July 1, 2016, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and the UConn board of trustees, in consultation with higher education institutions in the state, to develop and adopt guidelines on awarding academic credit for a student’s military training, coursework, and education. The guidelines must include course equivalency recommendations adopted by the American Council on Education and other institutions or organizations deemed reputable by BOR and the UConn board.

Until the guidelines are adopted, any higher education institution that awards college credit for such training must use course equivalency recommendations adopted by the American Council on Education when assigning college credit to a military occupation. Upon guideline adoption, the governing body of each higher education institution must develop and implement policies governing the awarding of college credit for a student’s military training, course work, and education.

BACKGROUND

Military Occupational Specialty Task Force

Special Act 13-5 established the task force to study the use of military occupational specialty training experience to satisfy training

requirements for state licensing purposes.

Related Bill

SB 212, favorably reported by the Veterans' Affairs Committee, has provisions substantially similar to this bill, except that it includes (1) certain fee waivers, (2) data reporting requirements, and (3) DOL initiatives involving spouses.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)