



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

**Raised Bill No. 5299**

LCO No. 1359



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***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2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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 military training, that is equivalent in  
21 content and quality to that required in this state, provided such  
22 applicant passes an examination or evaluation as required by the  
23 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25 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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 person honorably separated from the United States  
69 armed forces who applies not later than two years after the date of  
70 such separation and who, prior to the separation, held a military  
71 operator's license for motor vehicles of the same class as that for which  
72 such applicant has applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the  
73 examination. When the commissioner is satisfied as to the ability and  
74 competency of any applicant, the commissioner may issue to such  
75 applicant a license, either unlimited or containing such limitations as  
76 the commissioner deems advisable, and specifying the class of motor  
77 vehicles which the licensee is eligible to operate.

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

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

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

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

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

111 (2) Except any applicant described in section 14-36m, an applicant  
112 for a new motor vehicle operator's license shall, in the discretion of the  
113 commissioner, file, with the application, a copy of such applicant's  
114 birth certificate or other prima facie evidence of date of birth and  
115 evidence of identity.

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

144 operator's license for motor vehicles of the same class as that for which  
145 such applicant has applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the  
146 examination. When the commissioner is satisfied as to the ability and  
147 competency of any applicant, the commissioner may issue to such  
148 applicant a license, either unlimited or containing such limitations as  
149 the commissioner deems advisable, and specifying the class of motor  
150 vehicles which the licensee is eligible to operate.

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

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

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

176 (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, upon the  
177 payment of the appropriate fee, as provided in section 20-335, grant a  
178 license or a card of registration provided for in this chapter, without an  
179 examination, to any currently practicing, competent person who holds  
180 a similar license or card of registration granted by any other state,  
181 licensure jurisdiction within another state, the District of Columbia or  
182 any territory or commonwealth of the United States having licensure  
183 or registration requirements substantially similar to, or higher than,  
184 those of this state, if the licensing authority in such other state,  
185 licensure jurisdiction within another state, the District of Columbia or  
186 any territory or commonwealth of the United States may grant such  
187 similar license or card of registration, without an examination, to any  
188 currently practicing, competent licensee or registrant from this state.

189 (b) The commissioner shall grant a license or a card of registration  
190 provided for in this chapter, without an examination, to any person  
191 who presents evidence of satisfactory completion of a program or  
192 course of instruction as part of military training that is equivalent in  
193 content and quality to that required in this state.

194 (c) The commissioner, with the advice and consent of the  
195 appropriate examining board, may adopt regulations in accordance  
196 with the provisions of chapter 54 in order to carry out the provisions of  
197 this section.

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

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

205 (b) No person hired or otherwise engaged to perform work as a  
206 security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, shall perform the duties

207 of a security officer prior to being licensed as a security officer by the  
208 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Each  
209 applicant for a license shall complete a minimum of eight hours  
210 training in the following areas: Basic first aid, search and seizure laws  
211 and regulations, use of force, basic criminal justice and public safety  
212 issues. The commissioner shall waive such training for any person who  
213 shows proof that such person has completed military training that is  
214 equivalent to the training required by this subsection. The training  
215 shall be approved by the commissioner in accordance with regulations  
216 adopted pursuant to section 29-161x.

217 (1) On and after October 1, 2008, no person or employee of an  
218 association, corporation or partnership shall conduct such training  
219 without the approval of the commissioner except as provided in  
220 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Application for such approval shall  
221 be submitted on forms prescribed by the commissioner and  
222 accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. Such application shall be made  
223 under oath and shall contain the applicant's name, address, date and  
224 place of birth, employment for the previous five years, education or  
225 training in the subjects required to be taught under this subsection, any  
226 convictions for violations of the law and such other information as the  
227 commissioner may require by regulation adopted pursuant to section  
228 29-161x to properly investigate the character, competency and integrity  
229 of the applicant. No person shall be approved as an instructor for such  
230 training who has been convicted of a felony, a sexual offense or a crime  
231 of moral turpitude or who has been denied approval as a security  
232 service licensee, a security officer or instructor in the security industry  
233 by any licensing authority, or whose approval has been revoked or  
234 suspended. The term for such approval shall not exceed two years. Not  
235 later than two business days after a change of address, any person  
236 approved as an instructor in accordance with this section shall notify  
237 the commissioner of such change and such notification shall include  
238 both the old and new addresses.

239 (2) If a security officer training course described in this subsection is

240 approved by the commissioner on or before September 30, 2008, the  
241 instructor of such course shall have until April 1, 2009, to apply for  
242 approval as an instructor in accordance with subdivision (1) of this  
243 subsection.

244 (3) Each person approved as an instructor in accordance with this  
245 section may apply for the renewal of such approval on a form  
246 approved by the commissioner, accompanied by a fee of forty dollars.  
247 Such form may require the disclosure of any information necessary for  
248 the commissioner to determine whether the instructor's suitability to  
249 serve as an instructor has changed since the issuance of the prior  
250 approval. The term of such renewed approval shall not exceed two  
251 years.

252 (c) Not later than two years after successful completion of the  
253 training required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or the  
254 waiver of such training, the applicant may submit an application for a  
255 license as a security officer on forms furnished by the commissioner  
256 and, under oath, shall give the applicant's name, address, date and  
257 place of birth, employment for the previous five years, experience in  
258 the position applied for, including military training and weapons  
259 qualifications, any convictions for violations of the law and such other  
260 information as the commissioner may require, by regulation, to  
261 properly investigate the character, competency and integrity of the  
262 applicant. Applicants shall submit with their application two sets of  
263 fingerprints of the employee and the Commissioner of Emergency  
264 Services and Public Protection shall require any applicant for a license  
265 under this section to submit to state and national criminal history  
266 records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.  
267 Applicants shall submit with their application two sets of their  
268 fingerprints and two full-face photographs of them, two inches wide  
269 by two inches high, taken not earlier than six months prior to the date  
270 of application, and a one-hundred-dollar licensing fee, made payable  
271 to the state. Subject to the provisions of section 46a-80, no person shall  
272 be approved for a license who has been convicted of a felony, any

273 sexual offense or any crime involving moral turpitude, or who has  
274 been refused a license under the provisions of sections 29-161g to 29-  
275 161x, inclusive, for any reason except minimum experience, or whose  
276 license, having been granted, has been revoked or is under suspension.  
277 Upon being satisfied of the suitability of the applicant for licensure, the  
278 commissioner may license the applicant as a security officer. Such  
279 license shall be renewed every five years for a one-hundred-dollar fee.

280 (d) Upon the security officer's successful completion of training and  
281 licensing by the commissioner, or immediately upon hiring a licensed  
282 security officer, the security service employing such security officer  
283 shall apply to register such security officer with the commissioner on  
284 forms provided by the commissioner. Such application shall be  
285 accompanied by payment of a forty-dollar application fee payable to  
286 the state. The Division of State Police within the Department of  
287 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall keep on file the  
288 completed registration form and all related material. An identification  
289 card with the name, date of birth, address, full-face photograph,  
290 physical descriptors and signature of the applicant shall be issued to  
291 the security officer, and shall be carried by the security officer at all  
292 times while performing the duties associated with the security officer's  
293 employment. Registered security officers, in the course of performing  
294 their duties, shall present such card for inspection upon the request of  
295 a law enforcement officer.

296 (e) The security service shall notify the commissioner not later than  
297 five days after the termination of employment of any registered  
298 employee.

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

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

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

309 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) An institution of higher  
310 education may award college credit for military occupational specialty  
311 training to a veteran who enrolls at such institution and has experience  
312 in a military occupation recognized by such institution as substituting  
313 for or meeting the requirements of a particular course of study. Any  
314 institution of higher education that awards college credit for such  
315 training shall use course equivalency recommendations adopted by the  
316 American Council on Education when assigning college credit to a  
317 military occupation.

318 Sec. 7. Section 27-102l of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes  
319 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
320 *October 1, 2014*):

321 (a) There shall be a Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans'  
322 Home shall be within the department and shall be located in Rocky  
323 Hill. The department head shall be the Commissioner of Veterans'  
324 Affairs, who shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with  
325 the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, with the powers and  
326 duties prescribed therein.

327 (b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer a  
328 veterans' advocacy and assistance unit for the aid and benefit of  
329 veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members.  
330 Such unit shall conduct an annual training course for any city or town  
331 employee designated a veterans' service contact person pursuant to  
332 subsection (b) of section 27-135. The unit shall have a staff of not less  
333 than eight men and women, including six service officers, and clerical  
334 personnel. The unit head and the service officers shall be veterans, as

335 defined in section 27-103, or veterans who were awarded the armed  
336 forces expeditionary medal for service by the armed forces. At least  
337 one of the service officers shall be a woman having a demonstrated  
338 interest in the concerns of women veterans, who shall be responsible  
339 for addressing those concerns, and, effective upon the next opening of  
340 a service officer position occurring on or after July 1, 2010, at least two  
341 of the service officers shall be individuals having bilingual proficiency  
342 in English and Spanish, within existing authorized positions. Each  
343 service officer shall successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits  
344 within one year of commencement of employment and shall be  
345 assigned to one of the five congressional districts of the state.

346 (c) In addition to the powers and duties prescribed under section 4-  
347 8, the commissioner shall have the following powers and duties:

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

353 (2) To conduct interviews in the nursing homes or hospitals  
354 throughout the state to determine the number of veterans admitted  
355 and ascertaining which benefits such veterans are currently receiving  
356 and are entitled to receive;

357 (3) To cooperate with service agencies and organizations  
358 throughout the state in disseminating and furnishing counsel and  
359 assistance of benefit to residents of this state who are or have been  
360 members of the armed forces, their spouses or eligible dependents,  
361 which will indicate the availability of: (A) Educational training and  
362 retraining facilities; (B) health, medical, rehabilitation and housing  
363 services and facilities; (C) employment and reemployment services; (D)  
364 provisions of federal, state and local laws affording financial rights,  
365 privileges and benefits; and (E) other matters of similar nature;

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

370 (5) To take any steps necessary to ensure that state agencies  
371 recognize and accept military training and experience when a veteran  
372 applies for an occupational license, and that the spouses of veterans  
373 are provided with automatic temporary occupational licenses,  
374 including temporary certifications for teachers;

375 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) To cooperate with all national, state and local governmental  
376 and private agencies securing or offering services or any benefits to  
377 veterans, their spouses or dependents;

378 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) To develop and prepare a long-range plan and mission  
379 statement for the Veterans' Home and the veterans' advocacy and  
380 assistance unit; and

381 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) To review all appeals made by veterans, their spouses or  
382 eligible dependents or family members and render the final decision  
383 thereon regarding the denial of admission to any program or the  
384 refusal to render any service or benefit which is administered by the  
385 Department of Veterans' Affairs, the discharge or transfer from any  
386 such program or any disciplinary action taken while participating in  
387 any such program.

388 (d) The commissioner shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions  
389 of chapter 54, and enforce, such regulations and procedures for the  
390 operation, administration and management of the department and all  
391 programs and services under the jurisdiction of the department,  
392 including, but not limited to, procedures relating to admission and  
393 discharge or transfer of veterans in the Veterans' Home, a per diem fee  
394 schedule for programs, services and benefits provided by the Veterans'  
395 Home, and the participation of eligible family members in programs or  
396 services provided by the home.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	14-36(e)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	14-36(e)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	20-333a
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	29-161q
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	27-102l

**Statement of Purpose:**

To address barriers to employment for military families by requiring that state licensing authorities accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for additional training and by allowing spouses to gain streamlined occupational certifications.

*[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.]*