



# House of Representatives

**File No. 731**

General Assembly

February Session, 2014

**(Reprint of File No. 90)**

House Bill No. 5294  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 1, 2014

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMISSION OF VETERANS TO  
HOSPITALS AND THE APPLICATION OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL  
TRAINING TO STATE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-102m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

3 The commissioner, in his or her discretion, shall investigate all  
4 complaints made to [him] the commissioner with respect to the  
5 conduct or treatment of veterans, their spouses, or eligible dependents  
6 and family members receiving services under this chapter, or any  
7 program administered by the department and for such purpose shall  
8 have power to compel the attendance of witnesses under oath. If upon  
9 the completion of such investigation, the commissioner finds that any  
10 veteran, spouse or eligible dependent has not received proper care or  
11 has been ill treated or abused by any officer or employee, the  
12 commissioner shall, in his or her discretion, cause the offender to be  
13 prosecuted, disciplined or dismissed and shall order such remedial  
14 action as [he] the commissioner deems necessary to eliminate the

15 condition. If upon such investigation, the commissioner finds that no  
16 adequate grounds exist for such complaint, the commissioner shall  
17 certify that fact to the officer or employee involved and cause such  
18 officer's or employee's record to be cleared of the incident.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 27-108 of the general statutes is  
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
21 *October 1, 2014*):

22 (a) Any veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who  
23 meets active military, naval or air service requirements, as [defined]  
24 described in 38 USC 101, may apply for admission to the home; and  
25 any such veteran who has no adequate means of support, and who,  
26 from disease, wounds or accident, needs medical or surgical care and  
27 treatment or who has become mentally ill, [and who has no adequate  
28 means of support,] may be admitted to any hospital and receive  
29 necessary food, clothing, care and treatment therein, at the expense of  
30 the state, unless other funds or means of payment are available.  
31 Whenever a person is admitted to a hospital, such person shall be  
32 asked if he or she is a veteran. Before a hospital submits a bill for  
33 services pursuant to this section, such hospital shall take sufficient  
34 steps to determine that no other funds or means of payment are  
35 available to cover the cost of services rendered to the veteran. The  
36 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall make available to hospitals a list  
37 of payment options and benefits available to cover hospital costs of  
38 veterans.

39 Sec. 3. Section 19a-179 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
40 13 of substitute house bill 5299 of the current session and house  
41 amendment schedule "A", is repealed and the following is substituted  
42 in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

43 (a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
44 chapter 54, concerning (1) the methods and conditions for the issuance,  
45 renewal and reinstatement of licensure and certification or  
46 recertification of emergency medical service personnel, (2) the methods

47 and conditions for licensure and certification of the operations,  
48 facilities and equipment enumerated in section 19a-177, (3) complaint  
49 procedures for the public and any emergency medical service  
50 organization, and (4) exemption of members of the armed forces or the  
51 National Guard or veterans with appropriate military training,  
52 including, but not limited to, members of the armed forces or the  
53 National Guard or veterans with a designation by the National  
54 Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and veterans or members  
55 of the United States Navy and Coast Guard, from training and testing  
56 requirements for emergency medical technician licensure and  
57 certification. Such regulations shall be in conformity with the policies  
58 and standards established by the commissioner. Such regulations shall  
59 require that, as an express condition of the purchase of any business  
60 holding a primary service area, the purchaser shall agree to abide by  
61 any performance standards to which the purchased business was  
62 obligated pursuant to its agreement with the municipality.

63 (b) The commissioner may issue an emergency medical technician  
64 certificate to an applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the  
65 commissioner that the applicant (1) is currently certified as an  
66 emergency medical technician in good standing in any New England  
67 state, New York or New Jersey, (2) has completed an initial training  
68 program consistent with the United States Department of  
69 Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
70 emergency medical technician curriculum, and (3) has no pending  
71 disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against him or her.

72 (c) The commissioner may issue a temporary emergency medical  
73 technician certificate to an applicant who presents evidence  
74 satisfactory to the commissioner that (1) the applicant was certified by  
75 the department as an emergency medical technician prior to becoming  
76 licensed as a paramedic pursuant to section 20-206*ll*, and (2) the  
77 applicant's certification as an emergency medical technician has  
78 expired and the applicant's license as a paramedic has become void  
79 pursuant to section 19a-88. Such temporary certificate shall be valid for  
80 a period not to exceed one year and shall not be renewable.

81 (d) An applicant who is issued a temporary emergency medical  
82 technician certificate pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may,  
83 prior to the expiration of such temporary certificate, apply to the  
84 department for:

85 (1) Renewal of such person's paramedic license, giving such  
86 person's name in full, such person's residence and business address  
87 and such other information as the department requests, provided the  
88 application for license renewal is accompanied by evidence satisfactory  
89 to the commissioner that the applicant was under the medical  
90 oversight of a sponsor hospital on the date the applicant's paramedic  
91 license became void for nonrenewal; or

92 (2) Recertification as an emergency medical technician, provided the  
93 application for recertification is accompanied by evidence satisfactory  
94 to the commissioner that the applicant completed emergency medical  
95 technician refresher training approved by the commissioner not later  
96 than one year after issuance of the temporary emergency medical  
97 technician certificate. The department shall recertify such person as an  
98 emergency medical technician without the examination required for  
99 initial certification specified in regulations adopted by the  
100 commissioner pursuant to this section.

101 (e) For purposes of subsection (d) of this section, "medical oversight"  
102 means the active surveillance by physicians of mobile intensive care  
103 sufficient for the assessment of overall practice levels, as defined by  
104 state-wide protocols, and "sponsor hospital" means a hospital that has  
105 agreed to maintain staff for the provision of medical oversight,  
106 supervision and direction to an emergency medical service  
107 organization, as defined in section 19a-175, and its personnel and has  
108 been approved for such activity by the Office of Emergency Medical  
109 Services.

110 [(f) The commissioner shall issue an emergency medical technician  
111 certification to an applicant who is a member of the armed forces or  
112 the National Guard or a veteran and who (1) presents evidence

113 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant holds a current  
114 certification as a person entitled to perform similar services under a  
115 different designation by the National Registry of Emergency Medical  
116 Technicians, or (2) satisfies the regulations promulgated pursuant to  
117 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section. Such applicant shall be  
118 exempt from any written or practical examination requirement for  
119 certification.]

120 [(g)] (f) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person  
121 who was discharged or released under conditions other than  
122 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and "armed  
123 forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

124 Sec. 4. Section 20-206mm of the general statutes is repealed and the  
125 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

126 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, an  
127 applicant for a license as a paramedic shall submit evidence  
128 satisfactory to the commissioner, as defined in section 19a-175, that the  
129 applicant has successfully (1) completed a mobile intensive care  
130 training program approved by the commissioner, and (2) passed an  
131 examination prescribed by the commissioner.

132 (b) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present  
133 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (1) is  
134 licensed or certified as a paramedic in another state or jurisdiction  
135 whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are substantially  
136 similar to or higher than those of this state and that the applicant has  
137 no pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against him or  
138 her, or (2) (A) is currently licensed or certified as a paramedic in good  
139 standing in any New England state, New York or New Jersey, (B) has  
140 completed an initial training program consistent with the United States  
141 Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety  
142 Administration paramedic curriculum, and (C) has no pending  
143 disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against him or her.

144 (c) Any person who is certified as an emergency medical technician-

145 paramedic by the Department of Public Health on October 1, 1997,  
146 shall be deemed a licensed paramedic. Any person so deemed shall  
147 renew his license pursuant to section 19a-88 for a fee of one hundred  
148 fifty dollars.

149 (d) The Commissioner of Public Health shall issue an emergency  
150 medical technician certification to an applicant who is a member of the  
151 armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran and who (1) presents  
152 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant holds a  
153 current certification as a person entitled to perform similar services  
154 under a different designation by the National Registry of Emergency  
155 Medical Technicians, or (2) satisfies the regulations promulgated  
156 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 19a-179, as  
157 amended by this act. Such applicant shall be exempt from any written  
158 or practical examination requirement for certification.

159 (e) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who  
160 was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable  
161 from active service in the armed forces and "armed forces" has the  
162 same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	27-102m
Sec. 2	October 1, 2014	27-108(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2014	19a-179
Sec. 4	October 1, 2014	20-206mm

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.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill makes technical gender neutral changes to the statutes regarding the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and does not result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" required DVA to provide hospitals a list of payment options and benefits available to cover veterans' hospital costs. It is anticipated that DVA will be able to handle this provision within available appropriations. There is no associated fiscal impact.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5294 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, mentally ill veterans and veterans needing medical or surgical care or treatment may apply for admission to certain hospitals and receive necessary food, clothing, care, and treatment at the state's expense if they do not have any adequate means of support. This bill requires hospitals (1) to ask a patient, upon admission, if he or she is a veteran and (2) before submitting a bill to the state, take sufficient steps to determine that no other funds or means of payment are available to cover the cost of the rendered services. The Department of Veterans' Affairs must make available to hospitals a list of payment options and benefits available to cover veterans' hospital costs.

The bill applies to an incorporated hospital or tuberculosis sanatorium, chronic disease hospital, and mental hospital or training school for people with mental retardation. A "veteran" is anyone honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from, active service in the armed forces, who meets active military requirements.

The bill makes a technical change to sHB 5299, as amended by House Amendment "A," regarding the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner issuing emergency medical technician certifications to applicants who are armed forces or National Guard members or veterans.

The bill makes additional technical changes to the veterans' statutes.

\*House Amendment "A" adds the hospital and sHB 5299 technical

change provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)