



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5353

LCO No. 1279



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE STATE VETERANS' HOME.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

3 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as
4 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,
5 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve
6 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard
7 performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code; (2)
8 "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or released
9 under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces;
10 (3) "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative
11 days except, if the period of war lasted less than ninety days, "service
12 in time of war" means service for the entire period of war, unless
13 separated from service earlier because of a service-connected disability
14 rated by the Veterans' Administration, during a period of war; and (4)
15 "period of war" has the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as

16 amended, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning
17 on February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and
18 "period of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a
19 combat support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or
20 September 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to
21 December 15, 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of
22 Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf,
23 July 24, 1987, to August 1, 1990; and Panama, December 20, 1989, to
24 January 31, 1990, and shall include service during such periods with
25 the armed forces of any government associated with the United States.

26 (b) As used in this part, "home" means the Veterans' Home
27 maintained by the state; "hospital" means any incorporated hospital or
28 tuberculosis sanatorium in the state and any state chronic disease
29 hospital, or hospital for persons with mental illness, "veteran" means
30 any veteran, [who served in time of war,] as defined in subsection (a)
31 of this section, [and] who is a resident of this state, provided, if he or
32 she was not a resident or resident alien of this state at the time of
33 enlistment or induction into the armed forces, he or she shall have
34 resided continuously in this state for at least [two years] thirty days;
35 "eligible dependent" means any parent, wife or husband, or child of a
36 veteran who has no adequate means of support; and "eligible family
37 member" means any parent, brother or sister, wife or husband, or child
38 or children under eighteen years of age, of any veteran whose
39 cooperation in the program is integral to the treatment of the veteran.

40 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 27-108 of the general statutes is
41 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
42 *1, 2016*):

43 (c) Any such veteran desiring care or treatment under the
44 provisions of this chapter shall make application under oath to the
45 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs; but, if, by reason of his or her
46 physical condition, he or she is unable to make such application, some
47 other veteran may make such application in his or her behalf. Said

48 commissioner, or his or her designee, shall have sole power to
49 determine whether such veteran is entitled to admission to the home
50 or to a hospital, [and] provided said commissioner or designee shall
51 give preference to any such veteran who has resided continuously in
52 this state for one year or more. Any such veteran, if admitted, may,
53 upon application to the commissioner, receive transportation at the
54 expense of the state from his or her place of residence to the home or
55 such hospital. No veteran so admitted shall be discharged from the
56 home except upon the approval of the commissioner or his or her
57 designee. The commissioner shall have sole power to remove any
58 veteran whose care and treatment is paid for by the state from any
59 hospital to another and shall appoint such agents as are necessary to
60 see that veterans admitted to hospitals are receiving necessary food,
61 clothing, care and treatment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	27-103
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	27-108(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To expand veteran eligibility for admission to the Veterans' Home by removing the service in time of war requirement and lowering from two years to thirty days the continuous residence in this state requirement.

[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.]