



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 320

February Session, 2016



AN ACT CONCERNING CHARITIES SOLICITING ON BEHALF OF VETERANS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-100f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 (a) On or before July 1, 2012, the Department of Veterans' Affairs
4 shall publish on the department's Internet web site an informational
5 page listing any benefits, services or programs offered to veterans or
6 their families by any state or federal agency, department or institution.
7 The department shall maintain the informational page after said date
8 and shall update the informational page annually. The department
9 shall publish on the informational page any information concerning
10 the eligibility requirements and application process for such benefits,
11 services or programs, the name and contact information of any entity
12 offering such benefits, services or programs, and a link to the Internet
13 web site for such entity.

14 (b) (1) On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Veterans'
15 Affairs, or the commissioner's designee, shall, within available
16 appropriations, publish a list of qualified veterans' charitable
17 organizations. The commissioner [shall place any qualified veterans'
18 charitable organization on] may place upon such list for a period of

19 three years any organization that (A) holds itself out to be established
20 for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific,
21 patriotic, social welfare or advocacy purpose relating to or on behalf of
22 veterans, and (B) has been (i) a nonstock corporation, incorporated
23 pursuant to chapter 602 or any predecessor statutes thereto, for three
24 or more years, or (ii) a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) of
25 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
26 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to
27 time, for three or more consecutive years. Such list shall be cross-
28 referenced with the registry of charitable organizations maintained by
29 the Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-190b.

30 [Organizations] (2) Any such organization may apply and reapply
31 to the commissioner for inclusion on [the] such list by submitting
32 information regarding such organization's status to the commissioner,
33 on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and any additional
34 information the commissioner deems necessary to determine whether
35 such organization constitutes a qualified veterans' charitable
36 organization. [A qualified veterans' charitable organization is one
37 which: (1) Holds itself out to be established for any benevolent,
38 educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, patriotic, social welfare
39 or advocacy purpose relating to or on behalf of veterans; and (2) has
40 been (A) a nonstock corporation, organized under chapter 602, or any
41 predecessor thereto, for three or more years, or (B) a tax exempt
42 organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of
43 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the
44 United States, as amended from time to time, for three or more
45 consecutive years.] In making such determination, the commissioner
46 shall consider the following, including, but not limited to: (A) Charity
47 accountability standards; (B) the ratio of charitable activity
48 expenditures to fundraising and administrative expenditures; (C)
49 violations of chapter 419d and regulations established pursuant to said
50 chapter; and (D) any information provided to the Department of
51 Veterans' Affairs by such organization. If the commissioner approves
52 such organization's application, the commissioner shall include such

53 organization on such list as a qualified veterans' charitable
54 organization.

55 (3) The list of qualified veterans' charitable organizations, a link to
56 [such] each qualified veterans' charitable organization's Internet web
57 site, [and the qualifications for inclusion on such list set forth in
58 subdivisions (1) and] the qualifications set forth in subdivision (1) of
59 this subsection and the commissioner's considerations for inclusion on
60 such list set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall be
61 published on the informational Internet web site established in
62 subsection (a) of this section and shall bear a disclaimer as follows:
63 "This list is prepared for the public solely for the purpose of
64 information. The state of Connecticut provides no warranty about the
65 content or accuracy of the content herein."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	27-100f

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b)(1)(B)(i), "more than three years" was changed to "three or more years", "organized under" was changed to "incorporated pursuant to" and "statutes" was inserted after "predecessor" for accuracy and consistency; and in Section 1(b)(3), "link to such organization's" was changed to "link to each qualified veterans' charitable organization's" for clarity and "subsection (a) of" was inserted after "web site established in" for clarity.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*