



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 93

February Session, 2016

Senate Bill No. 201

Senate, March 21, 2016

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTHUMOUS AWARDING OF THE CONNECTICUT WARTIME SERVICE MEDAL.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs in conjunction with the
4 Adjutant General shall award a ribbon and medal to each veteran who
5 served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
6 and who either (1) was a resident of this state at the time he or she was
7 called to active duty for such service, or (2) is domiciled in this state on
8 the date of such award. The commissioner in conjunction with the
9 Adjutant General shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
10 54, setting forth the process for designing the ribbon and medal,
11 identifying veterans who are eligible for the ribbon and medal under
12 this section and establishing procedures for distributing the ribbon and
13 medal to each eligible veteran. The cost of the ribbons and medals shall
14 be paid from the funds appropriated to the military assistance account

15 within the Military Department. Within existing budgetary resources,
16 awards under this section may be made posthumously for veterans
17 who died on or after [January 1, 2000] November 12, 1918.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-73e

VA *Joint Favorable*

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 17 \$	FY 18 \$
Military Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost to the Military Department by expanding eligibility for the posthumous award of the Connecticut Wartime Service medal by approximately 500,000 veterans. It is unclear how many of the veterans eligible under this bill would apply for or be awarded the medal. The Military Department pays for the costs of the medals, at a per unit price of \$2.66. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is responsible for processing medal applications. While no fiscal impact to DVA is anticipated, it should be noted that the time to process medals will be extended due to the expansion under the bill.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 201*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTHUMOUS AWARDING OF THE CONNECTICUT WARTIME SERVICE MEDAL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the state's posthumous award program for veterans wartime service to include veterans who died on or after November 12, 1918 (the day after World War I ended) and before January 1, 2000. Under current law, the award, which may be a ribbon or medal, is available to veterans who died on or after January 1, 2000.

By law, the awards are made by the veterans affairs commissioner in conjunction with the adjutant general, within available Military Department budgetary resources. Veterans who served during a period of war as defined in law and were state residents when called to active duty qualify for the award.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/03/2016)