



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 99

February Session, 2016

Substitute Senate Bill No. 208

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 substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES AND UPDATES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-102*l* of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) There shall be a Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs. The
5 [Veterans' Home] Veterans Residential Services facility, as defined in
6 subsection (b) of section 27-103, as amended by this act, shall be within
7 the department and [shall be] located in Rocky Hill. The department
8 head shall be the Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, who
9 shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions
10 of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, as amended by this act, with the
11 powers and duties prescribed therein.

12 (b) The commissioner may appoint a [unit head] manager to

13 administer [a veterans' advocacy and assistance unit] an Office of
14 Advocacy and Assistance for the aid and benefit of veterans [,] and
15 their spouses, [and] eligible dependents and family members. [Such
16 unit] The office shall conduct an annual training course for any city or
17 town employee designated a veterans' service contact person pursuant
18 to subsection (b) of section 27-135. The [unit] office shall have a staff of
19 not less than eight men and women, including six veterans' service
20 officers, and clerical personnel. The [unit head and the] manager and
21 veterans' service officers shall be veterans, as defined in subsection (a)
22 of section 27-103, as amended by this act, or veterans who were
23 awarded the armed forces expeditionary medal for service by the
24 armed forces. At least one of the veterans' service officers shall be a
25 woman having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women
26 veterans, who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and,
27 effective upon the next opening of a veterans' service officer position
28 occurring on or after July 1, 2010, at least two of the veterans' service
29 officers shall be individuals having bilingual proficiency in English
30 and Spanish, within existing authorized positions. Each veterans'
31 service officer shall successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits
32 within one year of commencement of employment and shall be
33 assigned to one of the five congressional districts of the state.

34 (c) In addition to the powers and duties prescribed under section 4-
35 8, the commissioner shall have the following powers and duties:

36 (1) To prepare studies and collect information concerning facilities
37 and services available to members of the armed forces, veterans [,] or
38 their spouses, [or] eligible dependents or family members, including
39 facilities and services for veterans who may have been exposed to a
40 Vietnam herbicide during their periods of military service;

41 (2) To conduct interviews in the nursing homes or hospitals
42 throughout the state to determine the number of veterans admitted
43 and ascertaining which benefits such veterans are currently receiving
44 and are entitled to receive;

45 (3) To cooperate with service agencies and organizations

46 throughout the state in disseminating and furnishing counsel and
47 assistance of benefit to residents of this state who are or have been
48 members of the armed forces, their spouses or eligible dependents,
49 which will indicate the availability of: (A) Educational training and
50 retraining facilities; (B) health, medical, rehabilitation and housing
51 services and facilities; (C) employment and reemployment services; (D)
52 provisions of federal, state and local laws affording financial rights,
53 privileges and benefits; and (E) other matters of similar nature;

54 (4) To assist veterans [] and their spouses, [and] eligible dependents
55 and family members in the preparation, presentation, proof and
56 establishment of such claims, privileges, rights and other benefits
57 accruing to them under federal, state and local laws;

58 (5) To cooperate with all national, state and local governmental and
59 private agencies securing or offering services or any benefits to
60 veterans, their spouses or dependents;

61 (6) To develop and prepare a long-range plan and mission statement
62 for the [Veterans' Home and the veterans' advocacy and assistance
63 unit] Veterans Residential Services facility and Office of Advocacy and
64 Assistance;

65 (7) To review all appeals made by veterans [] or their spouses, [or]
66 eligible dependents or family members and render the final decision
67 thereon regarding the denial of admission to any program or the
68 refusal to render any service or benefit which is administered by the
69 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, the discharge or transfer
70 from any such program or any disciplinary action taken while
71 participating in any such program; and

72 (8) If the [Veterans' Home] Veterans Residential Services facility
73 closes or ceases to provide housing to veterans, to provide or arrange
74 for housing to any veteran residing at [the home or the health care
75 facility within the home] said facility or receiving care or treatment at
76 the Healthcare Center, as defined in subsection (b) of section 27-103, as
77 amended by this act, on the date of such closure or on the date [the

78 Veterans' Home] said facility ceases to provide housing to veterans.

79 (d) The commissioner shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions
80 of chapter 54, and enforce [,] such regulations and procedures for the
81 operation, administration and management of the department and all
82 programs and services under the jurisdiction of the department,
83 including, but not limited to, procedures relating to admission and
84 discharge or transfer of veterans in the [Veterans' Home] Veterans
85 Residential Services facility, a per diem fee schedule for programs,
86 services and benefits provided by [the Veterans' Home] said facility,
87 and the participation of eligible family members in programs or
88 services provided by [the home] said facility. The commissioner shall
89 amend such regulations as necessary, in accordance with the
90 provisions of chapter 54, to allow residents of [the Veterans' Home]
91 said facility and relatives or authorized representatives of such
92 residents to file a written complaint regarding policies, procedures and
93 administrative decisions of said [home] facility. Such amended
94 regulations shall include a procedure for filing such complaints,
95 including deadlines by which complaints must be received,
96 investigated and acted upon. The commissioner shall submit proposed
97 regulations for public comment pursuant to section 4-168 not later than
98 ninety days after July 1, 2015.

99 Sec. 2. Section 27-102n of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes
100 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
101 *1, 2016*):

102 (a) There shall be a Board of Trustees for the Department of
103 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs. On and after July 1, 2015, the board shall
104 be comprised of eighteen voting members who by education or
105 experience shall be qualified in health care, business management,
106 social services or law and who shall have a demonstrated interest in
107 the concerns of veterans. A majority of the members of the board shall
108 be veterans, including veterans of armed conflicts authorized by the
109 President of the United States. The members shall include (1) [two
110 residents of the Veterans' Home, one of whom shall be] the president

111 of the [home's veterans'] Veterans Residential Services facility's
112 veterans council, [and one of whom shall be] (2) the president of the
113 [home's health care facility] Healthcare Center's council, and [(2)] (3)
114 sixteen members appointed in accordance with subsection (b) of this
115 section.

116 (b) Sixteen members shall be appointed as follows: (1) Ten by the
117 Governor, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and (2) one
118 each by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the
119 House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the
120 majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of
121 the Senate and the minority leader of the House of Representatives,
122 whose terms shall be coterminous with the term of the appointing
123 authority. Any vacancy on the board shall be filled by the appointing
124 authority in the same manner as the original appointment, for the
125 unexpired portion of the term. Members shall be sworn to the faithful
126 performance of their duties. They shall receive no compensation for
127 their services but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses in
128 the performance of their duties.

129 (c) The Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, or the
130 commissioner's designee, shall serve as a nonvoting, ex-officio member
131 of the board and shall attend the meetings of the board.

132 (d) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from among the
133 membership of the board. The board shall meet at least quarterly and
134 upon the call of the commissioner, the chairperson or a majority of the
135 board members. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.
136 On and after January 1, 2016, any board member, except the
137 Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, absent from (1) three
138 consecutive meetings of the board, or (2) fifty per cent of such
139 meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned
140 from the board, effective immediately.

141 (e) The board shall advise and assist the commissioner in the
142 operation of the [Veterans' Home, the veterans' advocacy and
143 assistance unit] Veterans Residential Services facility, the Office of

144 Advocacy and Assistance, the administration, expansion or
145 modification of existing programs and services of the department and
146 the development of new programs and services.

147 (f) The board shall (1) review and approve any regulations prior to
148 adoption by the commissioner concerning: (A) Procedures relating to
149 admission and discharge or transfer of veterans in the [home] Veterans
150 Residential Services facility; (B) a per diem fee schedule for programs,
151 services and benefits provided therein; and (C) the participation of
152 eligible family members in programs or services provided by [the
153 home] said facility, and (2) review and comment on (A) the budget for
154 the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs; and (B) major policies
155 relating to the [Veterans' Home] Veterans Residential Services facility.

156 (g) The Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall provide
157 the board with information necessary for the board to monitor the
158 performance of the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs. Such
159 information shall be provided to the board in a timely manner and
160 shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the department's budget for
161 each fiscal year; (2) quarterly reports on the department's actual
162 revenue and expenditures for the preceding four months; (3) quarterly
163 reports on the staffing levels at the [Veterans' Home, including]
164 Veterans Residential Services facility, direct care staffing at the [health
165 care facility within the Veterans' Home] Healthcare Center and case
166 manager to resident ratios [,] for the preceding four months; (4)
167 [facilities and fleet] resources management, including current projects
168 and planned projects; (5) quarterly summaries of applications for
169 admission to, departures from and occupancy rates at [the home] said
170 facility for the preceding four months; (6) program performance,
171 including programs for employment assistance and assistance to
172 veteran residents interested in securing housing outside of [the
173 Veterans' Home] said facility; (7) results of annual resident satisfaction
174 surveys conducted by the department; (8) quarterly reports
175 summarizing incident rates at the [health care facility within the
176 Veterans' Home] Healthcare Center for the preceding four months; (9)
177 reports on the number of rules violations against residents of [the

178 Veterans' Home] said facility and patients of the Healthcare Center
179 and penalties issued therefor; (10) performance reports on programs
180 operated by the Office of Advocacy and Assistance within the
181 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs; (11) annual customer
182 satisfaction reports from veterans who request assistance from [such]
183 said office; (12) caseload figures for veterans' service officers; (13)
184 results of any federal and state inspections; [and] (14) quarterly reports
185 summarizing by type, frequency and resolution, concerns raised by
186 residents of the [Veterans' Home] Veterans Residential Services facility
187 and patients of the Healthcare Center, petitions and complaints filed
188 by any such residents [of the Veterans' Home and] or patients and any
189 relatives or authorized representatives of such residents or patients
190 received by the commissioner under subsection (d) of section 27-102l-
191 54 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for the four
192 preceding months and copies of any such petitions and complaints;
193 and (15) the bylaws, minutes of meetings and list of officers of the
194 Veterans Residential Services facility's veterans council for the
195 previous quarter.

196 (h) All board meeting notices, minutes and reports bearing a date of
197 January 1, 2012, or later shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the
198 department's Internet web site. Minutes from board meetings held on
199 or after July 1, 2015, shall be posted to such Internet web site not later
200 than seven days after each such meeting is held. If applicable, minutes
201 shall contain a statement that such minutes are considered draft
202 minutes until approved by the board.

203 (i) Not later than February fifteenth of each year, the board shall
204 submit an annual report to the Governor and the joint standing
205 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
206 relating to veterans' and military affairs, in accordance with the
207 provisions of section 11-4a, on its activities during the previous
208 calendar year, progress in fulfilling its mission based on programmatic
209 outcomes and recommendations, if any, for improving the delivery of
210 services to veterans and the addition of new programs.

211 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 27-103 of the general statutes is
212 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
213 *1, 2016*):

214 (b) As used in this part, ["home" means the Veterans' Home
215 maintained by the state] "Veterans Residential Services facility" means
216 the Veterans Residential Services facility in Rocky Hill maintained by
217 the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides temporary and other
218 supported residential services for qualifying veterans; "hospital"
219 means any incorporated hospital or tuberculosis sanatorium in the
220 state and any state chronic disease hospital, or hospital for persons
221 with mental illness; [,] "Healthcare Center" means the hospital in
222 Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs;
223 "veteran" means any veteran, [who served in time of war,] as defined
224 in subsection (a) of this section, [and] who is a resident of this state,
225 provided, if he or she was not a resident or resident alien of this state
226 at the time of enlistment or induction into the armed forces, he or she
227 shall have resided continuously in this state for at least two years;
228 "eligible dependent" means any parent, wife or husband, or child of a
229 veteran who has no adequate means of support; and "eligible family
230 member" means any parent, brother or sister, wife or husband, or child
231 or children under eighteen years of age, of any veteran whose
232 cooperation in the program is integral to the treatment of the veteran.

233 Sec. 4. Section 27-106 of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes
234 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
235 *1, 2016*):

236 (a) The commissioner shall adopt and enforce such rules as may be
237 necessary to ensure order, enforce discipline and preserve the health
238 and ensure the comfort of the residents in the [Veterans' Home]
239 Veterans Residential Services facility and patients in the Healthcare
240 Center, and shall discipline or dismiss any officer or resident of [the
241 home who disobeys or infringes upon] said facility or patient in the
242 Healthcare Center who violates such rules. The commissioner shall (1)
243 appoint, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, such officers and

244 employees as are necessary for the administration of the affairs of [the
245 home, shall] said facility and the Healthcare Center, (2) prescribe the
246 relative rank, if any, of such officers and employees, and [shall] (3)
247 commission each such officer, who shall wear such uniform, if any, as
248 is prescribed by the commissioner.

249 (b) The chief fiscal officer shall submit a semiannual plain language
250 report to each resident of the [Veterans' Home] Veterans Residential
251 Services facility and patient of the Healthcare Center detailing the
252 manner in which the institutional general welfare fund was used over
253 the previous six months to directly benefit veterans, [or the Veterans'
254 Home] said facility or the Healthcare Center. Such report shall include
255 a prominently displayed statement encouraging residents to submit
256 suggestions for projects to be funded by the institutional general
257 welfare fund and [shall include] a form for such submissions.

258 (c) The chief fiscal officer shall submit an itemized list of
259 expenditures made from the institutional general welfare fund to the
260 commissioner at intervals not greater than two months. Such list shall
261 include all such expenditures made during the two-month period
262 preceding its submission. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-
263 56, the commissioner shall prescribe procedures to limit and specify
264 the uses for which expenditures may be made from the institutional
265 general welfare fund so that only expenditures [which] that, in the
266 opinion of the commissioner and the board of trustees for the
267 department appointed pursuant to section 27-102n, as amended by this
268 act, directly benefit veterans, [or the Veterans' Home] the Veterans
269 Residential Services facility or the Healthcare Center are permitted.

270 (d) In addition to the estimate of expenditure requirements required
271 under section 4-77, the commissioner shall submit an accounting of all
272 planned expenditures for the next fiscal year from the institutional
273 general welfare fund to the joint standing committee of the General
274 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and
275 the budgets of state agencies at the time such estimate is submitted.

276 (e) The Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall annually

277 hold suitable exercises in the [Veterans' Home annually] Veterans
278 Residential Services facility on November eleventh recognizing
279 resident veterans for their military service.

280 Sec. 5. Section 27-106a of the general statutes is repealed and the
281 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

282 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
283 special act, the Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, on behalf
284 of any facility operated by the commissioner and established by the
285 state for the care of veterans, may apply to the Department of Public
286 Health for: (1) A license for a chronic and convalescent nursing home,
287 as defined in section 19a-521; (2) a license for a rest home with nursing
288 supervision, as defined in section 19a-521; or (3) a license for an
289 assisted living services agency, as defined in section 19a-490.

290 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
291 special act, in the event the commissioner applies for a license under
292 subsection (a) of this section, the [Veterans' Home] Department of
293 Veterans Affairs may retain [such home's] the chronic disease hospital
294 license for the Healthcare Center.

295 (c) The Department of Public Health shall process an application for
296 any license submitted under subsection (a) of this section in an
297 expedited manner.

298 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 319y and the
299 regulations of Connecticut state agencies, any [Veterans' Home]
300 Department of Veterans Affairs project undertaken pursuant to a
301 license application as provided in subsection (a) of this section shall
302 not be subject to certificate of need application and approval
303 requirements applicable to nursing home services, including beds,
304 additions and capital expenditures.

305 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
306 special act, [the Veterans' Home] any Department of Veterans Affairs
307 project undertaken pursuant to a license application as provided in

308 subsection (a) of this section shall be exempt from the requirements for
309 approval of a request or application provided for in section 19a-638.

310 Sec. 6. Section 27-107 of the general statutes is repealed and the
311 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

312 (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
313 shall assign one or more state policemen for duty [at the Veterans'
314 Home] upon the grounds of the Department of Veterans Affairs in
315 Rocky Hill as may be requested by the [commissioner] Commissioner
316 of Veterans Affairs.

317 (b) The Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, subject to the
318 approval of the Office of the State Traffic Administration, may: (1)
319 Prohibit, limit, restrict or regulate the parking of vehicles; (2)
320 determine speed limits; (3) install stop signs; (4) restrict roads or
321 portions thereof to one-way traffic; (5) designate the location of
322 crosswalks on any portion of any road or highway upon the grounds
323 of the [Veterans' Home] Department of Veterans Affairs; and (6) erect
324 and maintain signs designating such prohibitions or restrictions.
325 Security officers or institutional patrolmen appointed to act as state
326 policemen under the provisions of section 29-18 may arrest or issue a
327 summons for violation of such restrictions or prohibitions. Any person
328 who fails to comply with any such prohibition or restriction shall be
329 fined not more than twenty-five dollars, and the court or traffic or
330 parking authority having jurisdiction of traffic or parking violations in
331 the town of Rocky Hill shall have jurisdiction over violations of this
332 section.

333 Sec. 7. Section 27-108 of the general statutes is repealed and the
334 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

335 (a) Any veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who
336 meets active military, naval or air service requirements, as described in
337 38 USC 101, may apply for admission to the [home] Veterans
338 Residential Services facility or Healthcare Center; and any such
339 veteran who has no adequate means of support, and who, from

340 disease, wounds or accident, needs medical or surgical care and
341 treatment or who has become mentally ill, may be admitted to any
342 hospital and receive necessary food, clothing, care and treatment
343 therein, at the expense of the state, unless other funds or means of
344 payment are available. Whenever a person is admitted to a hospital,
345 such person shall be asked if he or she is a veteran. Before a hospital
346 submits a bill for services pursuant to this section, such hospital shall
347 take sufficient steps to determine that no other funds or means of
348 payment are available to cover the cost of services rendered to the
349 veteran. The Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall make
350 available to hospitals a list of payment options and benefits available
351 to cover hospital costs of veterans.

352 (b) Any member or former member of the armed forces, as defined
353 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who is a resident of this state and is
354 entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, may apply for
355 admission to the home.

356 (c) Any such veteran desiring care or treatment under the
357 provisions of this chapter shall make application under oath to the
358 Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs; but, if, by reason of his
359 or her physical condition, he or she is unable to make such application,
360 some other veteran may make such application in his or her behalf.
361 Said commissioner, or his or her designee, shall have sole power to
362 determine whether such veteran is entitled to admission to the [home]
363 Veterans Residential Services facility or to a hospital, including the
364 Healthcare Center, and such veteran, if admitted, may, upon
365 application to the commissioner, receive transportation at the expense
366 of the state from his or her place of residence to [the home] said facility
367 or such hospital. No veteran so admitted shall be discharged from [the
368 home] said facility except upon the approval of the commissioner or
369 his or her designee. The commissioner shall have sole power to remove
370 from any hospital to another hospital any veteran whose care and
371 treatment is paid for by the state [from any hospital to another] and
372 shall appoint such agents as are necessary to see that veterans
373 admitted to hospitals are receiving necessary food, clothing, care and

374 treatment.

375 (d) Such veterans who are able to pay in whole or in part for such
376 program or services, as determined by the applicable fee schedule
377 adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 27-102l, as amended by
378 this act, shall receive a monthly bill for such services rendered.

379 (e) In the event that a bill of a veteran remains unpaid and past due,
380 the chief fiscal officer, with the approval of the commissioner, shall
381 require the veteran to assign his or her right to receive payment of
382 income, from whatever source, to the commissioner until (1) such
383 account is made current, and (2) the veteran demonstrates to the
384 satisfaction of the commissioner a reasonable likelihood of more
385 prudent financial management for the future. Any veteran shall be
386 provided an opportunity for a hearing when an order of assignment is
387 issued.

388 (f) Payment of amounts determined by the commissioner as
389 provided by subsection (c) of this section shall be deposited in the
390 institutional general welfare fund of the [Veterans' Home] Department
391 of Veterans Affairs established in accordance with sections 4-56 to 4-58,
392 inclusive, and shall be available for expenditure from said fund for the
393 operation of the [Veterans' Home] department in accordance with
394 procedures prescribed by the commissioner and the Comptroller.

395 (g) In the event that a veteran dies, still owing money for services
396 rendered, the commissioner, with the aid of the Attorney General's
397 office, may submit a claim against such veteran's estate and any
398 amounts collected shall be deposited in the institutional general
399 welfare fund in accordance with section 4-56.

400 Sec. 8. Section 27-128 of the general statutes is repealed and the
401 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

402 The Governor may transfer, from time to time, as may be found
403 expedient, [funds] moneys existing in the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines
404 Fund and [funds of the Veterans' Home] moneys appropriated to the

405 Department of Veterans Affairs from one of said funds to the other of
406 said funds.

407 Sec. 9. Section 3-2b of the general statutes is repealed and the
408 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

409 The Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall cause to be
410 erected at the grave of any person who has served as Governor,
411 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller,
412 Attorney General or member of the General Assembly of this state and
413 who died or dies subsequent to January 1, 1971, a footstone, marked
414 with the seal of the state, the name of the deceased, the date of his
415 death and the office or offices in which he served and the dates such
416 service was rendered. The commissioner shall also provide for such
417 grave a flag holder and a Connecticut state flag. At the request of the
418 next of kin of any such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of
419 the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney General, the
420 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
421 provide an honor guard of six state policemen to attend the funeral
422 and burial of such officer. At the request of the next of kin of any such
423 member of the General Assembly, the executive director of the Joint
424 Committee on Legislative Management shall direct the chief of police
425 of the Office of State Capitol Police to provide an honor guard of State
426 Capitol police officers to attend the funeral and burial of such member.

427 Sec. 10. Section 3-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the
428 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

429 (a) Prior to July 1, 2005, the Treasurer is directed to hold the fund
430 known as the posthumous fund of Fitch's Home for the Soldiers in
431 trust, to credit the income from said fund to the Department of
432 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs to be used for the welfare and
433 entertainment of the patients of the [Veterans' Home] Veterans
434 Residential Services facility or any other home established by the state
435 for the care of veterans and to pay from the principal thereof any claim
436 which may be lawfully established against the same.

437 (b) Effective July 1, 2005, the Treasurer shall consolidate the
438 posthumous fund of Fitch's Home for the Soldiers and the Fitch Fund.
439 The name of the consolidated fund shall be the Fitch Fund. On and
440 after July 1, 2005, the Treasurer shall hold the Fitch Fund in trust, to
441 credit the income from said fund to the Department of [Veterans']
442 Veterans Affairs to be used for the welfare and entertainment of the
443 residents of the [Veterans' Home] Veterans Residential Services facility
444 or any other home established by the state for the care of veterans and
445 to pay from the principal thereof any claim that may be lawfully
446 established against said fund.

447 Sec. 11. Subsection (k) of section 3-65a of the general statutes is
448 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
449 *1, 2016*):

450 (k) In the event military medals are presumed abandoned pursuant
451 to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a, a banking or
452 financial organization shall transmit such medals to the Department of
453 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs in accordance with procedures established
454 by the Treasurer. The Treasurer and Commissioner of [Veterans']
455 Veterans Affairs shall enter into a memorandum of understanding
456 concerning the handling of such medals and the Department of
457 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall hold such medals in custody
458 pursuant to such memorandum. The Treasurer may make any
459 information obtained pursuant to this section, including any
460 photograph or other visual depiction of a military medal but excluding
461 Social Security numbers, available to the public to facilitate the
462 identification of the original owner of such medal or such owner's
463 heirs or beneficiaries.

464 Sec. 12. Section 4-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the
465 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

466 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
467 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
468 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner on Aging,
469 Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner,

470 Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer
471 Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic
472 and Community Development, State Board of Education,
473 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
474 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
475 Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health,
476 Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of
477 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social
478 Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of
479 Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of
480 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner
481 of Rehabilitation Services, the Commissioner of Early Childhood and
482 the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs. As used in
483 sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means the Commissioner
484 of Education.

485 Sec. 13. Section 4-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the
486 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

487 There shall be within the executive branch of state government the
488 following departments: Office of Policy and Management, Department
489 of Administrative Services, Department on Aging, Department of
490 Revenue Services, Department of Banking, Department of Agriculture,
491 Department of Children and Families, Department of Consumer
492 Protection, Department of Correction, Department of Economic and
493 Community Development, State Board of Education, Department of
494 Emergency Services and Public Protection, Department of Energy and
495 Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Board of
496 Regents for Higher Education, Insurance Department, Labor
497 Department, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
498 Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services,
499 Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles and
500 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs.

501 Sec. 14. Subsection (d) of section 4-61bb of the general statutes is
502 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

503 1, 2016):

504 (d) On or before January 1, 2016, each licensing authority shall,
505 within existing budgetary resources, publish on its Internet web site a
506 link to the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs informational
507 Internet web site established pursuant to section 27-100f and the
508 Internet web site maintained by the executive branch listing resources
509 and opportunities available to veterans.

510 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 4a-12 of the general statutes is
511 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
512 *1, 2016*):

513 (a) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall be
514 responsible for the following: (1) Investigation, determination, billing
515 and collection of all charges for support of persons aided, cared for or
516 treated in a state humane institution, as defined in section 17b-222, and
517 enforcement of support obligations of the liable relatives of such
518 persons; (2) investigation, determination, billing and collection of all
519 charges for services covered under the Medicaid or Medicare
520 programs provided to persons aided, cared for or treated by the
521 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs; (3) billing and collection of
522 any money due to the state in public assistance cases, and enforcement
523 of support obligations of liable relatives in such cases; (4) collection of
524 benefits and maintenance of trustee accounts therefor; and (5) such
525 collection services for other state agencies and departments as shall be
526 agreed to between said commissioner and the heads of such other
527 agencies and departments.

528 Sec. 16. Subsection (c) of section 4b-21 of the 2016 supplement to the
529 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
530 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

531 (c) Not later than thirty days after receipt of such notification from
532 the secretary, the following agencies shall determine and notify the
533 secretary in writing if the land, improvement or interest serves the
534 following needs: (1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community

535 Development, whether it can be used or adapted for economic
536 development or exchanged for property that can be used for economic
537 development; (2) the Commissioner of Transportation, whether it can
538 be used for transportation purposes; (3) the Commissioner of Energy
539 and Environmental Protection, whether it can be used for open space
540 purposes or to otherwise support the department's mission; (4) the
541 Commissioner of Agriculture, whether it can be used for farming or
542 agricultural purposes; (5) the Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans
543 Affairs, whether it can be used for veterans' housing; (6) the
544 Commissioner of Children and Families, whether it can be used to
545 support the department's mission; (7) the Commissioner of
546 Developmental Services, whether it can be used to support the
547 department's mission; (8) the Commissioner of Administrative
548 Services, whether it can be used to house state agencies or can be
549 leased; and (9) the Commissioner of Housing, whether it can be used
550 as an emergency shelter or transitional living facility for homeless
551 persons, or used for the construction, rehabilitation or renovation of
552 housing for persons and families of low and moderate income. Not
553 later than thirty days after receipt of such notification from the
554 secretary, any state agency, department or institution that is interested
555 in utilizing the land, improvement or interest shall submit a plan to the
556 secretary that sets forth the proposed use for the land, improvement or
557 interest and a budget and timetable for such use. If one or more
558 agencies, departments or institutions submit a plan for such land,
559 improvement or interest to the secretary within such thirty-day period,
560 the secretary shall analyze such agency, department or institution plan
561 or plans and determine whether custody and control of the land,
562 improvement or interest shall be transferred to one of such agencies,
563 departments or institutions, in which case the agency, department or
564 institution having custody of the land, improvement or interest shall
565 make such transfer.

566 Sec. 17. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 12-217pp of the
567 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
568 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

569 (e) (1) To be eligible to claim the credit, a taxpayer shall apply to the
570 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this section. The
571 application shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and shall
572 contain sufficient information as required by the commissioner,
573 including, but not limited to, the activities that the taxpayer primarily
574 engages in, the North American Industrial Classification System code
575 of the taxpayer, the current number of employees employed by the
576 taxpayer as of the application date, and if applicable, the name and
577 position or job title of the new, qualifying or veteran employee. The
578 commissioner shall consult with the Labor Commissioner, the
579 Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, the Commissioner of
580 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, the Commissioner of Mental Health and
581 Addiction Services or the Commissioner of Developmental Services, as
582 applicable, for any verification the commissioner deems necessary of
583 unemployment compensation or vocational rehabilitation services
584 received by a qualifying employee, or of service in the armed forces of
585 the United States by a veteran employee. The commissioner may
586 impose a fee for such application as the commissioner deems
587 appropriate.

588 Sec. 18. Section 13b-50b of the 2016 supplement to the general
589 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
590 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

591 The Connecticut Airport Authority, in consultation with the Labor
592 Department and the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, shall,
593 in administering the program established pursuant to subdivision (4)
594 of section 13b-50a, set aside not less than thirty per cent of the projects
595 or contracts for such program for veterans with service in time of war,
596 as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, except that for the
597 purposes of this section, "service in time of war" shall not include time
598 spent in training. To be eligible for such set aside, the contracting
599 entity shall be a veteran certified in weatherization and insulation
600 techniques through a training program funded by the American
601 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or a company that employs
602 such certified veterans.

603 Sec. 19. Subsection (e) of section 14-36h of the general statutes is
604 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
605 *1, 2016*):

606 (e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the
607 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs to have his or her status as
608 a veteran contained on his or her motor vehicle operator's license or
609 identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after
610 receipt of such request, verify whether such person is a veteran and, if
611 so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and
612 verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall indicate such
613 person's status as a veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license or
614 identity card issued to such person upon original issuance or renewal
615 of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card or upon issuance
616 of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.

617 Sec. 20. Subsection (i) of section 17a-451 of the 2016 supplement to
618 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
619 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

620 (i) The commissioner shall be responsible for the coordination of all
621 activities in the state relating to substance use disorders and treatment,
622 including activities of the Departments of Children and Families,
623 Correction, Public Health, Social Services and [Veterans'] Veterans
624 Affairs, the Judicial Branch and any other department or entity
625 providing services to persons with substance use disorders.

626 Sec. 21. Section 17a-453d of the general statutes is repealed and the
627 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

628 The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
629 collaboration with the Department of Children and Families and the
630 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, shall provide behavioral
631 health services, on a transitional basis, for the dependents and any
632 member of any reserve component of the armed forces of the United
633 States who has been called to active service in the armed forces of the
634 state or the United States for Operation Enduring Freedom or

635 Operation Iraqi Freedom. Such transitional services shall be provided
636 when no Department of Defense coverage for such services is available
637 or such member is not eligible for such services through the
638 Department of Defense, until an approved application is received from
639 the [federal Department of Veterans'] United States Department of
640 Veterans Affairs and coverage is available to such member and such
641 member's dependents.

642 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 17a-485c of the general statutes is
643 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
644 *1, 2016*):

645 (a) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
646 collaboration with the Commissioners of Social Services, Correction,
647 Children and Families, Housing, Developmental Services and
648 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, the Connecticut Housing Finance
649 Authority and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
650 Branch, shall establish permanent supportive housing initiatives to
651 provide additional units of affordable housing and support services to
652 eligible persons. Individuals and families with special needs and
653 individuals and families that are homeless or at risk for homelessness
654 shall be eligible for such permanent supportive housing initiatives.

655 Sec. 23. Subsection (b) of section 17b-59a of the 2016 supplement to
656 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
657 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

658 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall (1) develop,
659 throughout the Departments of Developmental Services, Public
660 Health, Correction, Children and Families, [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs
661 and Mental Health and Addiction Services, uniform management
662 information, uniform statistical information, uniform terminology for
663 similar facilities, uniform electronic health information technology
664 standards and uniform regulations for the licensing of human services
665 facilities, (2) plan for increased participation of the private sector in the
666 delivery of human services, (3) provide direction and coordination to
667 federally funded programs in the human services agencies and

668 recommend uniform system improvements and reallocation of
669 physical resources and designation of a single responsibility across
670 human services agencies lines to eliminate duplication.

671 Sec. 24. Section 18-87j of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes
672 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
673 *1, 2016*):

674 There is established a Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
675 which shall be within the Office of Policy and Management for
676 administrative purposes only. The commission shall consist of the
677 undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
678 within the Office of Policy and Management, the Chief Court
679 Administrator, the Commissioner of Correction, the Commissioner of
680 Public Safety, the Chief State's Attorney, the Chief Public Defender, the
681 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the
682 chairperson of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, or their designees,
683 the executive director of the Court Support Services Division or other
684 designee of the Chief Court Administrator and the following members,
685 each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor: Three government
686 officials, a police chief, three persons representing offender and victim
687 services within the private community and two public members. In
688 addition, the Labor Commissioner and the Commissioner of Social
689 Services, or their designees, shall be members of the commission with
690 authority to deliberate and vote on matters concerning employment
691 and entitlement programs available to adult and juvenile offenders
692 who are reentering the community, the Commissioner of Children and
693 Families and the Commissioner of Education, or their designees, shall
694 be members of the commission with authority to participate and vote
695 on matters concerning juvenile justice and the Commissioner of
696 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, or his or her designee, shall be a member
697 of the commission with authority to deliberate and vote on matters
698 concerning veterans within the criminal justice system including the
699 reentry needs of incarcerated veterans. The undersecretary of the
700 Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division shall serve as
701 chairperson of the commission. The commission shall meet at such

702 times as it deems necessary.

703 Sec. 25. Subsection (c) of section 19a-490b of the general statutes is
704 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
705 *1, 2016*):

706 (c) Each institution licensed pursuant to this chapter shall maintain
707 information regarding each patient's status as a veteran, as defined in
708 subsection (a) of section 27-103. Said information shall be made
709 available, upon request, to any duly authorized representative of the
710 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs.

711 Sec. 26. Subsection (a) of section 22-26l of the 2016 supplement to the
712 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
713 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

714 (a) The Department of Agriculture shall establish and administer a
715 Connecticut Farm Link program to establish a database of farmers and
716 agricultural land owners who intend to sell their farm operations or
717 agricultural land. The database shall be maintained by the Department
718 of Agriculture and shall be made available to the public on the
719 department's web site. Persons interested in starting an agricultural
720 business or persons interested in expanding a current agricultural
721 business may notify the department and have their names, contact
722 information and intentions regarding such businesses placed on the
723 web site. The department shall make reasonable efforts to facilitate
724 contact between parties with similar interests, including, but not
725 limited to, growing and processing crops as feedstock for biodiesel
726 heating and transportation fuels. The Department of Agriculture may
727 collaborate with the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, The
728 University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service and the
729 Labor Department to encourage and assist veterans in starting or
730 expanding an agricultural business and to provide education and
731 training opportunities to veterans concerning farming or agricultural
732 operations.

733 Sec. 27. Subsection (c) of section 27-61a of the general statutes is

734 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
735 *1, 2016*):

736 (c) The Adjutant General, in consultation with the Commissioner of
737 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
738 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
739 section. Such regulations shall include procedures for verification of
740 eligibility of an eligible member or veteran and for the application for
741 and payment of the amounts specified in this section.

742 Sec. 28. Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the
743 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

744 The Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs in conjunction
745 with the Adjutant General shall award a ribbon and medal to each
746 veteran who served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a) of
747 section 27-103, and who either (1) was a resident of this state at the
748 time he or she was called to active duty for such service, or (2) is
749 domiciled in this state on the date of such award. The commissioner in
750 conjunction with the Adjutant General shall adopt regulations, in
751 accordance with chapter 54, setting forth the process for designing the
752 ribbon and medal, identifying veterans who are eligible for the ribbon
753 and medal under this section and establishing procedures for
754 distributing the ribbon and medal to each eligible veteran. The cost of
755 the ribbons and medals shall be paid from the funds appropriated to
756 the military assistance account within the Military Department. Within
757 existing budgetary resources, awards under this section may be made
758 posthumously for veterans who died on or after January 1, 2000.

759 Sec. 29. Section 27-83 of the general statutes is repealed and the
760 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

761 Separation allowances for such dependents shall be paid on a basis
762 of not more than twenty dollars per month to the spouse of such
763 soldier, sailor or marine and not more than six dollars per month for
764 each minor child, under sixteen years, of such soldier, sailor or marine,
765 provided, if such soldier, sailor or marine has neither a spouse nor a

766 child, but has actually and solely dependent upon him or her for
767 support a father or brother who is unable to support himself by his
768 own labors, or a mother or sister so solely and actually dependent, or,
769 if such soldier, sailor or marine has such father, brother, mother or
770 sister actually and solely dependent upon him in addition to a spouse
771 or child or children or both, it shall be within the discretion of the
772 Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs to pay a separation
773 allowance or separation allowances to such additional dependents, or
774 to such spouse or children, or to both, provided no separation
775 allowance paid to all dependents of one soldier, sailor or marine under
776 the terms of this chapter shall amount in the aggregate to more than
777 fifty dollars per month, and provided no person shall receive a
778 separation allowance as a dependent of more than one soldier, sailor or
779 marine.

780 Sec. 30. Section 27-84 of the general statutes is repealed and the
781 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

782 Whenever a person enlists in the armed forces of the state, either in
783 the National Guard or other troops, he or she shall certify to the
784 enlistment officer the name, sex and age of each person who, in the
785 event of his or her being called upon to do active military or naval
786 service, will be dependent upon him or her within the meaning of this
787 chapter. Such information shall be filed with the commander of the
788 unit to which such soldier, sailor or marine is assigned and with the
789 Adjutant General of the state, to be made a part of the state military
790 records. When any member of the National Guard or other troop of the
791 state becomes responsible for the care of more dependents than have
792 been previously certified to by him or her, such member shall give
793 notice to the commander of the unit of the state forces to which he or
794 she is attached, and such commander shall inform the Adjutant
795 General and also certify to the same in his own company records. All
796 records of persons entitled to receive separation allowances under this
797 chapter shall be based upon such information filed by Connecticut
798 soldiers, sailors or marines with their organization commanders and
799 with the Adjutant General as herein described unless the

800 Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs finds such information
801 to be incorrect, and separation allowances shall be paid to other
802 persons only if in the opinion of said commissioner injustice will be
803 done the bona fide dependents of Connecticut soldiers, sailors or
804 marines if they are not so paid.

805 Sec. 31. Section 27-100c of the general statutes is repealed and the
806 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

807 (a) As used in this section, (1) "department" means the Department
808 of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, (2) "service member" means a member
809 of the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
810 including the Connecticut National Guard, (3) "veteran" has the same
811 meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and (4)
812 "committee" means the joint standing committee of the General
813 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and
814 military affairs.

815 (b) The Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall develop
816 and maintain a service members' and veterans' contact list, consisting
817 of only the names and mailing addresses of service members and
818 veterans who reside in this state, using information in the department's
819 records and information submitted to the department by (1) the
820 Military Department, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, (2)
821 the assessor of each town, as provided in subsection (d) of this section,
822 and (3) service members or veterans, as provided in subsection (e) of
823 this section.

824 (c) On or before September 1, 2005, the Military Department shall
825 submit to the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs a list of the
826 name and mailing address, but no other information, of each service
827 member who is a resident of this state that is in the records of the
828 Military Department.

829 (d) On or before the sixtieth day following the date on which an
830 exemption pursuant to subdivision (19) of section 12-81 takes effect, as
831 provided in section 12-95, the assessor of each town that granted any

832 such exemption shall submit to the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans
833 Affairs a list of the name and mailing address, but no other
834 information, of each individual who has such exemption.

835 (e) A service member or veteran who is a resident of this state may
836 add his or her name and mailing address to the contact list by
837 submitting such information to the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans
838 Affairs in person or by mail. A service member shall include a copy of
839 his or her military identification card and a veteran shall include a
840 copy of his or her military discharge document, as defined in section 1-
841 219.

842 (f) Any individual who is included in the contact list may cause his
843 or her name to be removed from the contact list by notifying the
844 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs in writing.

845 (g) (1) The Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs or the
846 Military Department may use the contact list solely for the purposes of
847 notifying service members or veterans of benefits, proposed or enacted
848 legislation that affects service members or veterans or their families, or
849 other information that the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs
850 or the Military Department believes will be helpful to service members
851 or veterans or their families. The Department of [Veterans'] Veterans
852 Affairs shall provide a copy of the contact list to the Military
853 Department, upon receipt of a written request signed by the Adjutant
854 General.

855 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-
856 210, the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs and the Military
857 Department shall not disclose any information in the contact list to any
858 person other than as provided in this subsection. No person shall use
859 the contact list for any purpose other than as provided in subdivision
860 (1) of this subsection.

861 Sec. 32. Section 27-100d of the general statutes is repealed and the
862 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

863 The Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall provide a toll-
864 free telephone number for use as a clearinghouse by active members of
865 the armed forces in this state, including the National Guard, and their
866 families to obtain, in response to their requests about benefits or
867 services that may be available to such members or their families,
868 referrals to entities that provide such benefits or services. The toll-free
869 telephone number shall be staffed by employees of or trained
870 volunteers working at the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs
871 on weekdays during regular business hours, and on weekends and
872 holidays from nine o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m.

873 Sec. 33. Section 27-100f of the general statutes is repealed and the
874 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

875 (a) On or before July 1, 2012, the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans
876 Affairs shall publish on the department's Internet web site an
877 informational page listing any benefits, services or programs offered to
878 veterans or their families by any state or federal agency, department or
879 institution. The department shall maintain the informational page after
880 said date and shall update the informational page annually. The
881 department shall publish on the informational page any information
882 concerning the eligibility requirements and application process for
883 such benefits, services or programs, the name and contact information
884 of any entity offering such benefits, services or programs, and a link to
885 the Internet web site for such entity.

886 (b) On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of [Veterans']
887 Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's designee, shall, within
888 available appropriations, publish a list of qualified veterans' charitable
889 organizations. The commissioner shall place any qualified veterans'
890 charitable organization on such list for a period of three years.
891 Organizations may apply and reapply to the commissioner for
892 inclusion on the list by submitting information regarding such
893 organization's status to the commissioner, on a form prescribed by the
894 commissioner, and any additional information the commissioner
895 deems necessary to determine whether such organization constitutes a

896 qualified veterans' charitable organization. A qualified veterans'
897 charitable organization is one which: (1) Holds itself out to be
898 established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane,
899 scientific, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy purpose relating to or
900 on behalf of veterans; and (2) has been (A) a nonstock corporation,
901 organized under chapter 602, or any predecessor thereto, for three or
902 more years, or (B) a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) of
903 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
904 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to
905 time, for three or more consecutive years. The list of qualified veterans'
906 charitable organizations, a link to such organization's Internet web site,
907 and the qualifications for inclusion on such list set forth in
908 subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, shall be published on the
909 informational Internet web site established in this section and shall
910 bear a disclaimer as follows: "This list is prepared for the public solely
911 for the purpose of information. The state of Connecticut provides no
912 warranty about the content or accuracy of the content herein."

913 Sec. 34. Section 27-100g of the 2016 supplement to the general
914 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
915 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

916 The Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs shall establish,
917 within available resources, a Connecticut women veterans' program to
918 (1) conduct outreach to women veterans for the purpose of improving
919 awareness of eligibility for federal and state veterans' benefits and
920 services; (2) conduct assessments of the needs of women veterans with
921 respect to benefits and services; (3) review programs, research projects
922 and other initiatives designed to address or meet the needs of
923 Connecticut's women veterans; (4) submit recommendations for
924 improving benefits and services available to women veterans to the
925 Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs and, in accordance with
926 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
927 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military
928 and veterans' affairs on January 15, 2016, and annually thereafter; and
929 (5) incorporate women veterans' issues in strategic planning

930 concerning benefits and services. The commissioner may adopt
931 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to supplement and
932 implement the provisions of this section. For the purposes of this
933 section, "veteran" means any person who was discharged or released
934 under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the
935 armed forces and "armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in
936 section 27-103, as amended by this act.

937 Sec. 35. Section 27-119 of the general statutes is repealed and the
938 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

939 When the grave of any person who, in time of war, served in the
940 military or naval forces of the English colonies in America, prior to
941 1776, or the grave of any veteran, which is located in this state, is
942 unmarked by a suitable headstone, or is marked by a bronze marker
943 erected by this state, the Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs
944 shall, upon application made not later than two years after the death of
945 such veteran or two years from the interment of the remains of such
946 veteran from abroad, provide payment for the costs of erecting
947 headstones provided by the federal government and shall furnish
948 transportation costs, where none are provided, for said headstones
949 from the nearest destination point to which the federal government
950 will deliver such headstones, to the gravesite, provided such payment
951 is requested not later than one year from the date of the approval of
952 such application. The expense of transportation and the erection or
953 installation of such headstone to an amount not exceeding an amount
954 prescribed by the commissioner, shall be paid by the Comptroller.

955 Sec. 36. Subsection (a) of section 27-140cc of the general statutes is
956 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
957 *1, 2016*):

958 (a) The commission shall advise the Department of [Veterans']
959 Veterans Affairs on (1) medical, administrative and social assistance
960 needed for veterans who were exposed to Vietnam herbicides, (2)
961 recommendations for legislation and (3) information that should be
962 provided to veterans about epidemiological or other studies relating to

963 Vietnam herbicide exposure which are being conducted by the state or
964 federal government.

965 Sec. 37. Section 27-140dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
966 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

967 The department, in conjunction and consultation with the
968 Department of [Veterans] Veterans Affairs, and within available
969 appropriations, may: (1) Establish, promote and maintain a public
970 information program on Vietnam herbicides which shall include, but
971 not be limited to, an extensive effort to identify and contact veterans
972 who may have been exposed to such herbicides; (2) establish, maintain
973 and promote a reporting process for veterans who were exposed to
974 Vietnam herbicides; (3) initiate education for health professionals to
975 assist them in understanding the potential risks and state-of-art
976 knowledge with regard to detection, diagnosis and treatment of acute
977 and chronic symptoms associated with Vietnam herbicide exposure,
978 and (4) refer veterans to appropriate state and federal agencies for the
979 purpose of filing claims to remedy medical and financial problems
980 caused by exposure to Vietnam herbicides. The commissioner may
981 enter into agreements with nonprofit veterans' organizations in the
982 state to provide these services.

983 Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 27-140ee of the general statutes is
984 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
985 *1, 2016*):

986 (a) A physician who has primary responsibility for treating a
987 veteran who believes he may have been exposed to Vietnam herbicides
988 while serving in the armed forces of the United States, shall, at the
989 request of the veteran, submit a report to the Department of [Veterans']
990 Veterans Affairs. If there is no physician having primary responsibility
991 for treating the veteran, the hospital treating the veteran shall, at the
992 request of the veteran, submit the report to the commission. Any
993 report of a physician or hospital shall include: (1) Any symptoms of
994 exposure to a Vietnam herbicide; (2) diagnosis of the veteran; and (3)
995 methods of treatment prescribed.

996 Sec. 39. Subsection (b) of section 27-140ii of the general statutes is
997 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
998 *1, 2016*):

999 (b) On and after October 1, 2005, the Adjutant General and the
1000 Commissioner of [Veterans] Veterans Affairs shall assist any eligible
1001 member or veteran who (1) has been assigned a risk level I, II or III for
1002 depleted uranium exposure by his or her branch of service, (2) is
1003 referred by a military physician, or (3) has reason to believe that he or
1004 she was exposed to depleted uranium during such service, in
1005 obtaining federal treatment services, including a best practice health
1006 screening test for exposure to depleted uranium using a bioassay
1007 procedure involving sensitive methods capable of detecting depleted
1008 uranium at low levels and the use of equipment with the capacity to
1009 discriminate between different radioisotopes in naturally occurring
1010 levels of uranium and the characteristic ratio and marker for depleted
1011 uranium. No state funds shall be used to pay for such tests or such
1012 other federal treatment services.

1013 Sec. 40. Section 36a-42 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1014 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1015 A financial institution may not disclose to any person, except to the
1016 customer or the customer's duly authorized agent, any financial
1017 records relating to such customer unless the customer has authorized
1018 disclosure to such person or the financial records are disclosed in
1019 response to (1) a certificate signed by the Commissioner of
1020 Administrative Services or the Commissioner of Social Services
1021 pursuant to the provisions of section 17b-137, (2) a lawful subpoena,
1022 summons, warrant or court order as provided in section 36a-43, (3)
1023 interrogatories by a judgment creditor or a demand by a levying
1024 officer as provided in sections 52-351b and 52-356a, (4) a certificate
1025 issued by a medical provider or its attorney under subsection (b) of
1026 section 17b-124, provided nothing in this subsection shall require the
1027 provider or its attorney to furnish to the financial institution any
1028 application for medical assistance filed pursuant to an agreement with

1029 the IV-D agency under subsection (c) of section 17b-137, (5) a certificate
1030 signed by the Commissioner of [Veterans] Veterans Affairs pursuant
1031 to section 27-117, (6) the consent of an elderly person or the
1032 representative of such elderly person provided to a person,
1033 department, agency or commission pursuant to section 17b-454,
1034 provided the financial institution shall have no obligation to determine
1035 the capacity of such elderly person or the representative of such
1036 elderly person to provide such consent, (7) a request for information
1037 served upon a financial institution in accordance with subsection (e) of
1038 section 12-162, or (8) a request for information made by the
1039 Commissioner of Revenue Services pursuant to section 12-39cc.

1040 Sec. 41. Subsection (l) of section 36a-261 of the general statutes is
1041 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1042 *1, 2016*):

1043 (l) Subject to such regulations and restrictions as the commissioner
1044 finds necessary and proper, and subject to the limitations, restrictions
1045 and privileges contained in this subsection, Connecticut banks are
1046 authorized to make and invest in any loan which the Administrator of
1047 [Veterans] Veterans Affairs guarantees, makes a commitment to
1048 guarantee, or insures pursuant to Title III of an Act of Congress
1049 entitled "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944", as amended, without
1050 regard to the limitations and restrictions of this title. (1) Each such loan
1051 shall be subject to the provisions of this title prescribing the maximum
1052 limits, in amount, of: (A) A loan or loans to or total liability of any one
1053 individual, and (B) a loan upon the security of real estate, with relation
1054 to the appraised value of such real estate. (2) Each such loan shall be
1055 secured by a mortgage on real estate, except that a loan pursuant to
1056 Section 501, 502 or 503 of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944,
1057 as amended, for the purpose of repairing, altering or improving a
1058 building or buildings, and a loan pursuant to Section 505(a) of said act,
1059 need not be secured by a lien on real property.

1060 Sec. 42. Section 45a-131 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1061 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1062 In any proceeding in the Probate Court in which the state is
1063 interested through the Department of Social Services, the Department
1064 of Administrative Services or the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans
1065 Affairs, any employee of any such department shall be permitted to
1066 participate fully in the proceeding in the same manner as any other
1067 interested party before the court. The judge of the court shall not
1068 require that the state be represented by an attorney-at-law as a
1069 condition of participation.

1070 Sec. 43. Section 45a-355 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1071 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1072 The application for admission of a decedent's will to probate or for
1073 administration of a decedent's estate shall state whether the decedent,
1074 or the spouse or children of the decedent received aid or care from the
1075 state, including aid or care from the former Veterans' Home and
1076 Hospital Commission or the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans
1077 Affairs. A copy of any application which states that the decedent, or
1078 the spouse or children of the decedent did receive such aid or care
1079 shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, by the Court of
1080 Probate to the Department of Administrative Services or the
1081 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, or both, as the case may
1082 be, and if the Department of Administrative Services or the
1083 Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs fails to present its claim to
1084 the fiduciary within ninety days from the date of mailing of such
1085 notification or the date of the appointment of the fiduciary, whichever
1086 is later, the Department of Administrative Services or the Department
1087 of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs, as the case may be, shall be forever
1088 barred from asserting or recovering on such claim from the fiduciary,
1089 the estate of the decedent or any creditor or beneficiary of the state.

1090 Sec. 44. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 45a-649 of the
1091 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1092 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1093 (3) The court shall order such notice as it directs to the following:
1094 (A) The applicant; (B) the person in charge of welfare in the town

1095 where the respondent is domiciled or resident and, if there is no such
1096 person, the first selectman or chief executive officer of the town if the
1097 respondent is receiving assistance from the town; (C) the
1098 Commissioner of Social Services, if the respondent is in a state-
1099 operated institution or receiving aid, care or assistance from the state;
1100 (D) the Commissioner of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs if the respondent
1101 is receiving veterans' benefits or the [Veterans' Home] Veterans
1102 Residential Services facility, or both, if the respondent is receiving aid
1103 or care from [such home] said facility, or both; (E) the Commissioner of
1104 Administrative Services, if the respondent is receiving aid or care from
1105 the state; (F) the children of the respondent and if none, the parents of
1106 the respondent and if none, the brothers and sisters of the respondent
1107 or their representatives; (G) the person in charge of the hospital,
1108 nursing home or some other institution, if the respondent is in a
1109 hospital, nursing home or some other institution.

1110 Sec. 45. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 54-56i of the 2016
1111 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
1112 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1113 (c) The court, after consideration of the recommendation of the
1114 state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's
1115 attorney in charge of the case, may, in its discretion, grant such
1116 application. If the court grants such application, the court shall refer
1117 such person (1) to the Court Support Services Division for
1118 confirmation of the eligibility of the applicant, (2) to the Department of
1119 Mental Health and Addiction Services for evaluation and
1120 determination of an appropriate drug education or substance abuse
1121 treatment program for the first or second time such application is
1122 granted, and (3) to a state-licensed substance abuse treatment program
1123 for evaluation and determination of an appropriate substance abuse
1124 treatment program for the third time such application is granted,
1125 except that, if such person is a veteran, the court may refer such person
1126 to the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs or the United States
1127 Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, for any such evaluation
1128 and determination. For the purposes of this subsection and subsection

1129 (d) of this section, "veteran" means any person who was discharged or
1130 released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service
1131 in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this
1132 act.

1133 (d) (1) (A) Upon confirmation of eligibility and receipt of the
1134 evaluation and determination required under subsection (c) of this
1135 section, such person shall be placed in the pretrial drug education and
1136 community service program and referred by the Court Support
1137 Services Division for the purpose of receiving appropriate drug
1138 education services or substance abuse treatment program services, as
1139 recommended by the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection (c)
1140 of this section and ordered by the court, to the Department of Mental
1141 Health and Addiction Services or to a state-licensed substance abuse
1142 treatment program for placement in the appropriate drug education or
1143 substance abuse treatment program, except that, if such person is a
1144 veteran, the division may refer such person to the Department of
1145 [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of
1146 Veterans Affairs, subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this
1147 subsection.

1148 (B) Persons who have been granted entry into the pretrial drug
1149 education and community service program for the first time shall
1150 participate in either a fifteen-session drug education program or a
1151 substance abuse treatment program of not less than fifteen sessions, as
1152 ordered by the court on the basis of the evaluation and determination
1153 required under subsection (c) of this section. Persons who have been
1154 granted entry into the pretrial drug education and community service
1155 program for the second time shall participate in either a fifteen-session
1156 drug education program or a substance abuse treatment program of
1157 not less than fifteen sessions, as ordered by the court based on the
1158 evaluation and determination required under subsection (c) of this
1159 section. Persons who have been granted entry into the pretrial drug
1160 education and community service program for a third time shall be
1161 referred to a state-licensed substance abuse program for evaluation
1162 and participation in a course of treatment as ordered by the court

1163 based on the evaluation and determination required under subsection
1164 (c) of this section.

1165 (C) Persons who have been granted entry into the pretrial drug
1166 education and community service program shall also participate in a
1167 community service program administered by the Court Support
1168 Services Division pursuant to section 53a-39c. Persons who have been
1169 granted entry into the pretrial drug education and community service
1170 program for the first time shall participate in the community service
1171 program for a period of five days. Persons who have been granted
1172 entry into the pretrial drug education and community service program
1173 for the second time shall participate in the community service program
1174 for a period of fifteen days. Persons who have been granted entry into
1175 the pretrial drug education and community service program for a third
1176 or additional time shall participate in the community service program
1177 for a period of thirty days.

1178 (D) Placement in the pretrial drug education and community service
1179 program pursuant to this section shall not exceed one year. Persons
1180 receiving substance abuse treatment program services in accordance
1181 with the provisions of this section shall only receive such services at
1182 state-licensed substance abuse treatment program facilities that are in
1183 compliance with all state standards governing the operation of such
1184 facilities, except that, if such person is a veteran, such person may
1185 receive services from facilities under the supervision of the
1186 Department of [Veterans] Veterans Affairs or the United States
1187 Department of Veterans Affairs, subject to the provisions of
1188 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

1189 (E) Any person who enters the pretrial drug education and
1190 community service program shall agree: (i) To the tolling of the statute
1191 of limitations with respect to such crime; (ii) to a waiver of such
1192 person's right to a speedy trial; (iii) to complete participation in the
1193 pretrial drug education and community service program, as ordered
1194 by the court; (iv) to commence participation in the pretrial drug
1195 education and community service program not later than ninety days

1196 after the date of entry of the court order unless granted a delayed entry
1197 into the program by the court; and (v) upon completion of
1198 participation in the pretrial drug education and community service
1199 program, to accept (I) placement in a treatment program upon the
1200 recommendation of a provider under contract with the Department of
1201 Mental Health and Addiction Services or a provider under the
1202 supervision of the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs or the
1203 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or (II) placement in a
1204 treatment program that has standards substantially similar to, or
1205 higher than, a program of a provider under contract with the
1206 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, if the Court
1207 Support Services Division deems it appropriate.

1208 (2) The Court Support Services Division may only refer a veteran to
1209 the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans Affairs or the United States
1210 Department of Veterans Affairs for the receipt of services under the
1211 program if (A) the division determines that such services will be
1212 provided in a timely manner under standards substantially similar to,
1213 or higher than, standards for services provided by the Department of
1214 Mental Health and Addiction Services under the program, and (B) the
1215 applicable department agrees to submit timely program participation
1216 and completion reports to the division in the manner required by the
1217 division.

1218 Sec. 46. Subsection (e) of section 54-56l of the 2016 supplement to the
1219 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1220 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1221 (e) Upon confirmation of eligibility and consideration of the
1222 treatment plan presented by the Court Support Services Division, the
1223 court may grant the application for participation in the program. If the
1224 court grants the application, such person shall be referred to the
1225 division. The division may collaborate with the Department of Mental
1226 Health and Addiction Services, the Department of [Veterans'] Veterans
1227 Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as
1228 applicable, to place such person in a program that provides

1229 appropriate community supervision, treatment and services. The
1230 person shall be subject to the supervision of a probation officer who
1231 has a reduced caseload and specialized training in working with
1232 persons with psychiatric disabilities.

1233 Sec. 47. Section 20-248 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1234 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1235 Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any [patient] resident of the
1236 [Veterans' Home] Veterans Residential Services facility at Rocky Hill
1237 from practicing the occupation of a master barber in said [home]
1238 facility. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent any
1239 person holding a registered hairdresser and cosmetician's license
1240 under the provisions of chapter 387 from cutting the hair of any
1241 person, or to prevent any person licensed under the provisions of
1242 chapter 387 from carrying on the occupation of hairdresser and
1243 cosmetician. Nothing in this chapter or in chapter 387 shall be
1244 construed to prevent a licensed registered hairdresser and cosmetician
1245 from working in a barber shop or a licensed master barber from
1246 working in a hairdressing and cosmetology shop.

1247 Sec. 48. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1248 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1249 All money so paid to and received by the American Legion shall be
1250 expended by it in furnishing temporary income; subsistence items such
1251 as food, wearing apparel, shelter and related expenses; medical or
1252 surgical aid or care or relief to, or in bearing the funeral expenses of,
1253 soldiers, sailors or marines who performed service in time of war, as
1254 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, in any branch of the
1255 military service of the United States, including the Connecticut
1256 National Guard, or who were engaged in any of the wars waged by the
1257 United States during said periods in the forces of any government
1258 associated with the United States, who have been honorably
1259 discharged therefrom or honorably released from active service
1260 therein, and who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at the time
1261 of entering said armed forces of the United States, including the

1262 Connecticut National Guard, or of any such government, or to their
1263 spouses who are living with them, or to their widows or widowers
1264 who were living with them at the time of death, or dependent children
1265 under eighteen years of age, who may be in need of the same. All such
1266 payments shall be made by the American Legion under authority of its
1267 bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the procedure for proof of
1268 eligibility for such aid, provided payments made for the care and
1269 treatment of any person entitled to the benefits provided for herein, at
1270 any hospital receiving aid from the General Assembly unless special
1271 care and treatment are required, shall be in accordance with the
1272 provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the sum expended for the
1273 care or treatment of such person at any other place than a state-aided
1274 hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost of supporting such
1275 person at the [Veterans' Home] Healthcare Center in Rocky Hill
1276 maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, unless special care
1277 and treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by
1278 the treasurer of such organization may be paid therefor. Upon the
1279 completion of the trust provided for in section 27-138, the principal
1280 fund shall revert to the State Treasury.

1281 Sec. 49. Section 38a-502 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1282 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1283 No individual health insurance policy delivered, issued for delivery
1284 or renewed in this state on or after October 1, 1988, may exclude
1285 coverage for services provided by the [Veterans' Home] Healthcare
1286 Center in Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of Veterans
1287 Affairs.

1288 Sec. 50. Section 38-529 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1289 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

1290 No group health insurance policy delivered, issued for delivery or
1291 renewed in this state on or after October 1, 1988, may exclude coverage
1292 for services provided by the [Veterans' Home] Healthcare Center in
1293 Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	27-102l
Sec. 2	July 1, 2016	27-102n
Sec. 3	July 1, 2016	27-103(b)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2016	27-106
Sec. 5	July 1, 2016	27-106a
Sec. 6	July 1, 2016	27-107
Sec. 7	July 1, 2016	27-108
Sec. 8	July 1, 2016	27-128
Sec. 9	July 1, 2016	3-2b
Sec. 10	July 1, 2016	3-38
Sec. 11	July 1, 2016	3-65a(k)
Sec. 12	July 1, 2016	4-5
Sec. 13	July 1, 2016	4-38c
Sec. 14	July 1, 2016	4-61bb(d)
Sec. 15	July 1, 2016	4a-12(a)
Sec. 16	July 1, 2016	4b-21(c)
Sec. 17	July 1, 2016	12-217pp(e)(1)
Sec. 18	July 1, 2016	13b-50b
Sec. 19	July 1, 2016	14-36h(e)
Sec. 20	July 1, 2016	17a-451(i)
Sec. 21	July 1, 2016	17a-453d
Sec. 22	July 1, 2016	17a-485c(a)
Sec. 23	July 1, 2016	17b-59a(b)
Sec. 24	July 1, 2016	18-87j
Sec. 25	July 1, 2016	19a-490b(c)
Sec. 26	July 1, 2016	22-26l(a)
Sec. 27	July 1, 2016	27-61a(c)
Sec. 28	July 1, 2016	27-73e
Sec. 29	July 1, 2016	27-83
Sec. 30	July 1, 2016	27-84
Sec. 31	July 1, 2016	27-100c
Sec. 32	July 1, 2016	27-100d
Sec. 33	July 1, 2016	27-100f
Sec. 34	July 1, 2016	27-100g
Sec. 35	July 1, 2016	27-119
Sec. 36	July 1, 2016	27-140cc(a)
Sec. 37	July 1, 2016	27-140dd
Sec. 38	July 1, 2016	27-140ee(a)

Sec. 39	July 1, 2016	27-140ii(b)
Sec. 40	July 1, 2016	36a-42
Sec. 41	July 1, 2016	36a-261(l)
Sec. 42	July 1, 2016	45a-131
Sec. 43	July 1, 2016	45a-355
Sec. 44	July 1, 2016	45a-649(a)(3)
Sec. 45	July 1, 2016	54-56i(c) and (d)
Sec. 46	July 1, 2016	54-56l(e)
Sec. 47	July 1, 2016	20-248
Sec. 48	July 1, 2016	27-140
Sec. 49	July 1, 2016	38a-502
Sec. 50	July 1, 2016	38-529

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), ", as defined in subsection (b) of section 27-103, as amended by this act," was inserted after "facility" for clarity; in Section 1(c)(8), "receiving care or treatment at" was inserted after "said facility or" for accuracy, ", as defined in subsection (b) of section 27-103, as amended by this act," was inserted after "the Healthcare Center" for clarity and "or Healthcare Center" was deleted before "ceases to provide housing" for consistency; in Section 2(g)(9), "patients of the" was inserted after "facility and" for accuracy; in Section 2(g)(14), "patients of the" was inserted after "facility and" for accuracy, "any such" was inserted after "filed by" for clarity, "or patients" was inserted before "of [the" for accuracy, the open bracket in "residents of [the Veterans"" was moved to after "residents" and before "of" for clarity, "said facility and Healthcare Center" was deleted for clarity, "any" was inserted before "relatives or authorized" for clarity and "or patients" was inserted before "received by the commissioner" for accuracy; and in Section 47, "patient" was bracketed and "resident" was inserted in its place for accuracy and "home" was bracketed and "facility" was inserted in its place for consistency.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which makes technical and conforming changes to statutes related to the Department of Veterans Affairs, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state, or municipalities.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 208*****AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES AND UPDATES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill renames the “Department of Veterans’ Affairs” as the “Department of Veterans Affairs” (DVA) and the “veterans’ advocacy and assistance unit” as the “Office of Advocacy and Assistance.” The commissioner also appoints a manager, rather than a unit head, to lead this office.

The bill conforms the law to practice by splitting the statutory definition of Veterans Home into the “Veterans Residential Services facility” and the “Healthcare Center.” Under the bill, both the Veterans Residential Services facility and Healthcare Center are identified as DVA-maintained Rocky Hill facilities. The residential facility provides temporary and other supported residential services for qualifying veterans while the Healthcare Center is the hospital.

Under the bill, the DVA commissioner must provide the board of trustees quarterly in a timely manner with the bylaws, meeting minutes, and list of officers of the Veterans Residential Services facility’s veterans council for the previous quarter. By law, the commissioner must already provide the board with information to monitor the department’s performance (e.g., budget and other financial documents).

The bill also expands the DVA commissioner’s powers and duties to include preparing studies and collecting information on facilities and services available to family members of armed forces members and veterans. The commissioner already has such authority for the

spouses and eligible dependents of such service members and veterans.

Finally, the bill makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/03/2016)