



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 914

January Session, 2017

* _____SB00914VA_____030617_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF A VETERAN FOR A CERTAIN HONOR AND CERTAIN BENEFIT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in conjunction with the
4 Adjutant General shall award a ribbon and medal to each (1) veteran
5 [who served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-
6 103, and] who either [(1)] (A) was a resident of this state at the time he
7 or she was called to active duty for [such] service in time of war, or
8 [(2)] (B) is domiciled in this state on the date of such award, and (2)
9 former member of any reserve component of the armed forces who
10 was honorably discharged who either (A) was a resident of this state at
11 the time he or she was serving in such reserve component during a
12 period of war, or (B) is domiciled in this state on the date of such
13 award. The commissioner in conjunction with the Adjutant General
14 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, setting forth the
15 process for designing the ribbon and medal, identifying such veterans
16 and former members who are eligible for the ribbon and medal under
17 this section and establishing procedures for distributing the ribbon and
18 medal to each such eligible veteran and former member. The cost of
19 the ribbons and medals shall be paid from the funds appropriated to
20 the military assistance account within the Military Department. Within

21 existing budgetary resources, awards under this section may be made
22 posthumously for veterans who died on or after November 12, 1918.
23 As used in this section, "veteran", "service in time of war" and "period
24 of war" have the same meanings as provided in subsection (a) of
25 section 27-103.

26 Sec. 2. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 14-36h of the general
27 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
28 (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

29 (e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the
30 Department of Veterans Affairs to have his or her status as a veteran
31 contained on his or her motor vehicle operator's license or identity
32 card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of
33 such request, verify whether such person is a veteran and, if so, notify
34 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and verification.
35 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall indicate such person's
36 status as a veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license or identity
37 card issued to such person upon original issuance or renewal of a
38 motor vehicle operator's license or identity card or upon issuance of a
39 duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.

40 (f) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most
41 complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of
42 birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by
43 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity,
44 unless the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate
45 of civil union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent
46 jurisdiction pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name;
47 and (2) "veteran" [has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a)
48 of section 27-103] means any person honorably discharged from, or
49 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed
50 forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and any former
51 member of the armed forces who is entitled to retirement pay under 10
52 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, or, but for age,
53 would be so entitled.

54 Sec. 3. Section 27-122b of the general statutes is repealed and the
55 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

56 (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means any person (1)
57 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
58 from, active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
59 Air Force or Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof,
60 organized pursuant to an Act of Congress; (2) who has completed at
61 least twenty years of qualifying service, as described in and computed
62 under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, in the
63 Connecticut National Guard; or (3) who was killed in action, or who
64 died as a result of accident or illness sustained while performing active
65 service, in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or
66 Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized
67 pursuant to an Act of Congress, or in the Connecticut National Guard.

68 (b) (1) Any veteran may, by letter or other communication
69 addressed to the commissioner, or by will, request that upon his or her
70 death his or her body be buried in a veterans' cemetery established
71 pursuant to section 27-122a, or (2) the spouse or other next of kin may
72 apply to the commissioner to have the body of such veteran buried in
73 said veterans' cemetery, and in either case such request shall be
74 granted.

75 (c) (1) Any member or former member of the armed forces, as
76 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who is a resident of this
77 state and is entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as
78 amended from time to time, or would have been entitled to retirement
79 pay under said chapter, but for the fact that the person is under sixty
80 years of age, may by letter or other communication addressed to the
81 commissioner, or by will, request that his or her body will be buried in
82 said veterans' cemetery, or (2) the spouse or other next of kin may
83 apply to the commissioner to have the body of such [veteran] member
84 or former member buried in said veterans' cemetery, and, in either
85 case, such request shall be granted.

86 (d) The spouse of any veteran shall, upon similar request or
87 application made to the commissioner, be buried in said veterans'
88 cemetery provided only one such request or application shall be
89 granted.

90 (e) The commissioner shall designate an area in said veterans'
91 cemetery for veterans who, for religious reasons, require burial in a
92 consecrated area.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	27-73e
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	14-36h(e) and (f)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	27-122b

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, "identifying veterans who" was changed to "identifying such veterans and former members who" and "each eligible veteran." was changed to "each such eligible veteran and former member." for accuracy and consistency; and in Section 3(c)(2), "body of such veteran buried" was changed to "body of such [veteran] member or former member buried" for accuracy.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*