



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 161

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 284

Senate, April 3, 2018

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist. and SEN. MARTIN of the 31st Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY OR WHO HAVE HAD AN EXPERIENCE OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2018*):

4 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as
5 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,
6 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve
7 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard
8 performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code; (2)
9 "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or released
10 under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces;
11 (3) "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative

12 days except, if the period of war lasted less than ninety days, "service
13 in time of war" means service for the entire period of war, unless
14 separated from service earlier because of a service-connected disability
15 rated by the [Veterans' Administration] United States Department of
16 Veterans Affairs, during a period of war; [and] (4) "period of war" has
17 the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as amended from time
18 to time, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning on
19 February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and "period
20 of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a combat
21 support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or
22 September 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to
23 December 15, 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of
24 Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf,
25 July 24, 1987, to August 1, 1990; and Panama, December 20, 1989, to
26 January 31, 1990, and shall include service during such periods with
27 the armed forces of any government associated with the United States;
28 and (5) "qualifying condition" means a diagnosis of post-traumatic
29 stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by, or an experience of
30 military sexual trauma, as described in 38 USC 1720D, as amended
31 from time to time, disclosed to, an individual licensed to provide
32 health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs
33 facility.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 4a-59 of the general statutes is
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
36 *October 1, 2018*):

37 (c) All open market orders or contracts shall be awarded to (1) the
38 lowest responsible qualified bidder, the qualities of the articles to be
39 supplied, their conformity with the specifications, their suitability to
40 the requirements of the state government and the delivery terms being
41 taken into consideration and, at the discretion of the Commissioner of
42 Administrative Services, life-cycle costs and trade-in or resale value of
43 the articles may be considered where it appears to be in the best
44 interest of the state, (2) the highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria
45 bid, in accordance with the criteria set forth in the bid solicitation for

46 the contract, or (3) the proposer whose proposal is deemed by the
47 awarding authority to be the most advantageous to the state, in
48 accordance with the criteria set forth in the request for proposals,
49 including price and evaluation factors. Notwithstanding any provision
50 of the general statutes to the contrary, each state agency awarding a
51 contract through competitive negotiation shall include price as an
52 explicit factor in the criteria in the request for proposals and for the
53 contract award. In considering past performance of a bidder for the
54 purpose of determining the "lowest responsible qualified bidder" or
55 the "highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid", the
56 commissioner shall evaluate the skill, ability and integrity of the
57 bidder in terms of the bidder's fulfillment of past contract obligations
58 and the bidder's experience or lack of experience in delivering
59 supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services of the size or
60 amount for which bids have been solicited. In determining the lowest
61 responsible qualified bidder for the purposes of this section, the
62 commissioner may give a price preference of up to ten per cent for (A)
63 the purchase of goods made with recycled materials or the purchase of
64 recyclable or remanufactured products if the commissioner determines
65 that such preference would promote recycling or remanufacturing. As
66 used in this subsection, "recyclable" means able to be collected,
67 separated or otherwise recovered from the solid waste stream for
68 reuse, or for use in the manufacture or assembly of another package or
69 product, by means of a recycling program which is reasonably
70 available to at least seventy-five per cent of the state's population,
71 "remanufactured" means restored to its original function and thereby
72 diverted from the solid waste stream by retaining the bulk of
73 components that have been used at least once and by replacing
74 consumable components and "remanufacturing" means any process by
75 which a product is remanufactured; (B) the purchase of motor vehicles
76 powered by a clean alternative fuel; (C) the purchase of motor vehicles
77 powered by fuel other than a clean alternative fuel and conversion
78 equipment to convert such motor vehicles allowing the vehicles to be
79 powered by either the exclusive use of clean alternative fuel or dual
80 use of a clean alternative fuel and a fuel other than a clean alternative

81 fuel. As used in this subsection, "clean alternative fuel" means natural
82 gas, electricity, hydrogen or propane when used as a motor vehicle
83 fuel; or (D) the purchase of goods or services from a micro business,
84 except that, in the case of a veteran-owned micro business, the
85 commissioner may give a price preference of up to fifteen per cent. As
86 used in this subsection, "micro business" means a business with gross
87 revenues not exceeding three million dollars in the most recently
88 completed fiscal year, [and] "veteran-owned micro business" means a
89 micro business of which at least fifty-one per cent of the ownership is
90 held by one or more veterans [, as defined in subsection (a) of section
91 27-103] and "veteran" means any person (i) honorably discharged
92 from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in,
93 the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act,
94 or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
95 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
96 active service in the armed forces. All other factors being equal,
97 preference shall be given to supplies, materials and equipment
98 produced, assembled or manufactured in the state and services
99 originating and provided in the state. Except with regard to contracts
100 that may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation
101 funds, if any such bidder refuses to accept, within ten days, a contract
102 awarded to such bidder, such contract may be awarded to the next
103 lowest responsible qualified bidder or the next highest scoring bidder
104 in a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, and so on until such
105 contract is awarded and accepted. Except with regard to contracts that
106 may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation
107 funds, if any such proposer refuses to accept, within ten days, a
108 contract awarded to such proposer, such contract shall be awarded to
109 the next most advantageous proposer, and so on until the contract is
110 awarded and accepted. There shall be a written evaluation made of
111 each bid. This evaluation shall identify the vendors and their
112 respective costs and prices, document the reason why any vendor is
113 deemed to be nonresponsive and recommend a vendor for award. A
114 contract valued at one million dollars or more shall be awarded to a
115 bidder other than the lowest responsible qualified bidder or the

116 highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, whichever is
117 applicable, only with written approval signed by the Commissioner of
118 Administrative Services and by the Comptroller. The commissioner
119 shall post on the department's Internet web site all awards made
120 pursuant to the provisions of this section.

121 Sec. 3. Subdivision (28) of section 5-196 of the general statutes is
122 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
123 *October 1, 2018*):

124 (28) "Veteran", when used in this chapter and in section 5-180,
125 means any person [who has been] (A) (i) honorably discharged from,
126 or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the
127 armed forces of the United States, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as
128 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who has received a
129 discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service
130 in the armed forces of the United States, and (B) who has performed
131 such service in time of war, as [such terms are] defined in [section 27-
132 103] said section, except that the final date for service in time of war
133 during World War II shall be December 31, 1947.

134 Sec. 4. Section 5-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the
135 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

136 Any veteran who served in time of war, if such veteran is not
137 eligible for disability compensation or pension from the United States
138 [through the Veterans' Administration] Department of Veterans
139 Affairs, or the spouse of such veteran who by reason of such veteran's
140 disability is unable to pursue gainful employment, or the unmarried
141 surviving spouse of such veteran, and if such person has attained at
142 least the minimum earned rating on any examination held for an
143 original appointment for the purpose of establishing a candidate list to
144 fill a vacancy in accordance with subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall
145 have five points added to his or her earned rating. Any such veteran,
146 or the spouse of such veteran who by reason of such veteran's
147 disability is unable to pursue gainful employment, or the unmarried
148 surviving spouse of such veteran, if such person is eligible for such

149 disability compensation or pension and if he or she has attained at
150 least the minimum earned rating on any such examination held for an
151 original appointment for the purpose of establishing a candidate list to
152 fill a vacancy in accordance with subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall
153 have ten points added to his or her earned rating. Any [person who
154 has been honorably discharged from or released under honorable
155 conditions from active service in the armed forces of the United States,
156 and] veteran who has served in a military action for which such person
157 received or was entitled to receive a campaign badge or expeditionary
158 medal, shall have five points added to his or her earned rating if such
159 person has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any such
160 examination held for an original appointment for the purpose of
161 establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance with
162 subsection (d) of section 5-228 and such person is not otherwise
163 eligible to receive additional points pursuant to this section. Names of
164 any such persons shall be placed upon the candidate lists in the order
165 of such augmented ratings. Credits shall be based upon examinations
166 with a possible rating of one hundred points.

167 Sec. 5. Section 8-75 of the general statutes is repealed and the
168 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

169 As among applicants eligible for occupancy at the rent involved
170 whose needs for housing accommodations are substantially equal, as
171 determined by the developer, preference shall be given to veterans. As
172 used in this section, "veteran" means any person (1) honorably
173 discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active
174 service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended
175 by this act, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said
176 section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
177 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

178 Sec. 6. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-5 of the 2018 supplement
179 to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in
180 lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

181 (b) Application to take or retake the examination described in

182 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall be accompanied
183 by a money order or certified check in the nonrefundable amount of
184 thirteen dollars. This amount shall include the fee for the state high
185 school diploma.

186 (c) No (1) veteran, (2) member of the armed forces, as defined in
187 section 27-103, as amended by this act, (3) person with a qualifying
188 condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge
189 other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the
190 armed forces, or [any] (4) person under twenty-one years of age shall
191 be required to pay the fees described in subsection (b) of this section.
192 The commissioner may waive any fee described in subsection (b) upon
193 the submission of evidence indicating an inability to pay.

194 Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (i) of section 10-221a of the 2018
195 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
196 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

197 (i) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma
198 to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, as amended
199 by this act, [of] or a person with a qualifying condition, as defined in
200 said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
201 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces, which veteran or
202 person served during World War II or the Korean hostilities, as
203 described in section 51-49h, or [of] during the Vietnam Era, as defined
204 in [subsection (a) of] section 27-103, as amended by this act, [who]
205 withdrew from high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the
206 armed forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a
207 consequence of such service.

208 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is
209 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
210 *October 1, 2018*):

211 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any
212 of the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent
213 child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has

214 declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war
215 while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child
216 has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of
217 [Connecticut] the state at the time such child is accepted for admission
218 to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this
219 section, for any (A) veteran who performed service in time of war, as
220 defined in [subsection (a) of] section 27-103, as amended by this act, or
221 (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who
222 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
223 active service in the armed forces and who performed service in time
224 of war, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of
225 war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service
226 academy, [who] which veteran or person has been accepted for
227 admission to such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time
228 such veteran or person is accepted for admission to such institution, (3)
229 for any resident of [Connecticut] the state sixty-two years of age or
230 older, provided, at the end of the regular registration period, there are
231 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those
232 [persons] residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to
233 offer the course in which such [person] resident intends to enroll and
234 there is space available in such course after accommodating all such
235 students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut State Police
236 Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said
237 academy offered in coordination with a regional community-technical
238 college which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any
239 active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who
240 (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant
241 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B)
242 is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time
243 or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, (6)
244 for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-
245 294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as
246 defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C)
247 municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154,
248 killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a

249 dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who
250 was a resident of this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of
251 the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
252 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29,
253 2005, and (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
254 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while
255 performing active military duty with the armed forces of the United
256 States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this
257 state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with
258 the provisions of this subsection also receives educational
259 reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the
260 amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans and persons
261 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and members of the
262 National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be
263 given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in
264 registering for courses at regional community-technical colleges.
265 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this
266 subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one
267 year.

268 Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is
269 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
270 *October 1, 2018*):

271 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees at the
272 Connecticut State University System (1) for any dependent child of a
273 person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be
274 missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in
275 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted
276 for admission to such institution and is a resident of [Connecticut] the
277 state at the time such child is accepted for admission to such
278 institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section,
279 for any (A) veteran who performed service in time of war, as defined
280 in [subsection (a) of] section 27-103, as amended by this act, or (B)
281 person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
282 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from

283 active service in the armed forces and who performed service in time
284 of war, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of
285 war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service
286 academy, [who] which veteran or person has been accepted for
287 admission to such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time
288 such veteran or person is accepted for admission to such institution, (3)
289 for any resident of [Connecticut] the state sixty-two years of age or
290 older who has been accepted for admission to such institution,
291 provided (A) such [person] resident is enrolled in a degree-granting
292 program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are
293 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those
294 [persons] residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to
295 offer the course in which such [person] resident intends to enroll and
296 there is space available in such course after accommodating all such
297 students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police
298 Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said
299 academy offered in coordination with the university which accredits
300 courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the
301 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified
302 by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a
303 member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted
304 for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an
305 undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, (6) for any
306 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or
307 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in
308 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal
309 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in
310 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state who is a dependent
311 child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a
312 resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the
313 state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection
314 of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9)
315 for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving
316 spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing active
317 military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after

318 September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any person
319 who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this
320 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,
321 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational
322 reimbursement. Veterans and persons described in subdivision (2) of
323 this subsection and members of the National Guard described in
324 subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the same status as
325 students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at
326 Connecticut state universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of
327 section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state"
328 includes domicile for less than one year.

329 Sec. 10. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is
330 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
331 *October 1, 2018*):

332 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at
333 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person
334 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing
335 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed
336 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for
337 admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of
338 [Connecticut] the state at the time such child is accepted for admission
339 to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this
340 section, for any (A) veteran who performed service in time of war, as
341 defined in [subsection (a) of] section 27-103, as amended by this act, or
342 (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who
343 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
344 active service in the armed forces and who performed service in time
345 of war, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of
346 war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service
347 academy, [who] which veteran or person has been accepted for
348 admission to said institution and is domiciled in this state at the time
349 such veteran or person is accepted for admission to said institution, (3)
350 for any resident of [Connecticut] the state sixty-two years of age or
351 older who has been accepted for admission to said institution,

352 provided (A) such [person] resident is enrolled in a degree-granting
353 program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are
354 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those
355 [persons] residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to
356 offer the course in which such [person] resident intends to enroll and
357 there is space available in such course after accommodating all such
358 students, (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air
359 National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or
360 such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the
361 guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to said institution
362 on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate
363 degree-granting program, (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police
364 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary
365 police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of
366 a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state
367 employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (6) for
368 any resident of the state who is the dependent child or surviving
369 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state,
370 (7) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in
371 a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
372 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (8) for any resident of the state
373 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was
374 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
375 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who
376 was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver
377 in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
378 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
379 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
380 and persons described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and
381 members of the National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this
382 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
383 tuition waivers in registering for courses at The University of
384 Connecticut. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used
385 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less
386 than one year.

387 Sec. 11. Subdivision (19) of section 12-81 of the 2018 supplement to
388 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
389 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018, and applicable to assessment years*
390 *commencing on or after October 1, 2018*):

391 (19) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
392 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held
393 in trust for, (A) any resident of this state who [(a)] is a veteran of the
394 armed forces in service in time of war, [(b)] (B) any resident of this
395 state who was a citizen of the United States at the time of his
396 enlistment and who was in the military or naval service of a
397 government allied or associated with that of the United States during
398 the Second World War and received an honorable discharge
399 therefrom, [(c)] (C) any resident of this state who served during the
400 Second World War as a member of any armed force of any
401 government signatory to the United Nations Declaration of January 1,
402 1942, and participated in armed conflict with an enemy of the United
403 States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten
404 years and presents satisfactory evidence of such service, [(d)] (D) any
405 resident of this state who served as a member of the crew of a
406 merchant vessel during the Second World War and is qualified with
407 respect to such service as a member of the group known as the
408 "American Merchant Marine in ocean-going service during the period
409 of armed conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945", members of
410 which are deemed to be eligible for certain veterans benefits under a
411 determination in the United States Department of Defense, as recorded
412 in the Federal Register of February 1, 1988, provided such resident has
413 received an armed forces discharge certificate from the Department of
414 Defense on the basis of such service, [(e)] (E) any member of the armed
415 forces who was in service in time of war and is still in the service and
416 by reason of continuous service has not as yet received a discharge,
417 [(f)] (F) any person who is retired from the armed forces after thirty
418 years of service because he has reached the age limit prescribed by law
419 or because he suffers from mental or physical disability, (G) any
420 person with a qualifying condition who has received a discharge other
421 than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed

422 forces and who was in service in time of war, or [(g)] (H) any person
423 who is serving in the armed services in time of war; or lacking said
424 amount of property in his own name, so much of the property
425 belonging to, or held in trust for, his spouse, who is domiciled with
426 him, as is necessary to equal said amount. For the purposes of this
427 subdivision, "veteran", "armed forces", [and] "service in time of war"
428 and "qualifying condition" have the same [meaning as] meanings as
429 provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act;

430 Sec. 12. Subdivision (22) of section 12-81 of the 2018 supplement to
431 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
432 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018, and applicable to assessment years*
433 *commencing on or after October 1, 2018*):

434 (22) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
435 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held
436 in trust for, any surviving spouse while such person remains a widow
437 or widower, or a minor child or both, residing in this state, of (A) one
438 who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air
439 Force of the United States, or [of] any citizen of the United States who
440 served in the military or naval service of a government allied or
441 associated with the United States, as provided by subdivision (19) of
442 this section, and who has died either during his or her term of service
443 or after receiving an honorable discharge therefrom, provided such
444 amount shall be three thousand dollars if death was due to service and
445 occurred while on active duty, or (B) one with a qualifying condition,
446 as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who has served in
447 the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the
448 United States and who has died after receiving a discharge other than
449 bad conduct or dishonorable therefrom;

450 Sec. 13. Subdivision (25) of section 12-81 of the 2018 supplement to
451 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
452 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018, and applicable to assessment years*
453 *commencing on or after October 1, 2018*):

454 (25) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,

455 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held
456 in trust for, a sole surviving parent, while such parent remains a
457 widow or widower, resident of this state, of one (A) who has left no
458 widow or widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or
459 died, and who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast
460 Guard or Air Force of the United States as provided by subdivision
461 (19) of this section and has died during his or her term of service or
462 after receiving an honorable discharge therefrom, provided []
463 property belonging to, or held in trust for, such parent of more than
464 one serviceman or servicewoman who has left no widow or widower,
465 or whose widow or widower has remarried or died, and who has
466 served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of
467 the United States as provided in subdivision (19) of this section and
468 has died during his or her term of service shall be subject to an
469 exemption of one thousand dollars for each such serviceman or
470 servicewoman, or (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section
471 27-103, who has left no widow or widower, or whose widow or
472 widower has remarried or died, and who has served in the Army,
473 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States
474 and has died after receiving a discharge other than bad conduct or
475 dishonorable therefrom;

476 Sec. 14. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (63) of section 12-412 of the
477 2018 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
478 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

479 (D) The Department of Revenue Services may issue a farmer tax
480 exemption permit to a farmer, notwithstanding the fact that, in the
481 farmer's immediately preceding taxable year, such farmer's gross
482 income from agricultural production engaged in as a trade or business
483 may have been less than two thousand five hundred dollars, provided
484 (i) such farmer purchased, during such farmer's current or
485 immediately preceding taxable year, an agricultural trade or business
486 from a seller who was issued a farmer tax exemption permit by such
487 department at the time of such purchase and such agricultural
488 production shall be carried on as a trade or business by such purchaser

489 during the period commencing upon the purchase and ending two
490 years after the date of purchase. Such purchaser shall be liable for the
491 tax otherwise imposed, during the period commencing upon such
492 purchase and ending two years after the date of purchase, if such
493 agricultural production is not carried on as a trade or business by such
494 purchaser during the period commencing upon such purchase and
495 ending two years after the date of purchase; or (ii) such farmer is a
496 veteran [, as defined in section 27-103,] who has never owned or leased
497 property for the purpose of commercial agricultural production or
498 who has owned or leased property for the purpose of commercial
499 agricultural production for less than two years. Such veteran farmer
500 shall be liable for the tax otherwise imposed, during the period
501 commencing upon issuance of a farmer tax exemption permit pursuant
502 to this subparagraph and ending two years after the date of such
503 issuance, if such agricultural production is not carried on as a trade or
504 business by such veteran farmer during the period commencing upon
505 such issuance and ending two years after the date of such issuance. As
506 used in this subparagraph, "veteran" means any person (1) honorably
507 discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active
508 service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended
509 by this act, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said
510 section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
511 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

512 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 14-20b of the 2018 supplement to
513 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
514 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

515 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any
516 veteran or member of the armed forces [, as defined in subsection (a) of
517 section 27-103,] or the surviving spouse of such veteran or member,
518 shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least
519 one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of
520 registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle,
521 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates
522 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any

523 veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of
524 such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as
525 a trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as
526 provided in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such
527 plates, which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such plates and
528 shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle. As
529 used in this subsection, "member of the armed forces" has the same
530 meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this, and
531 "veteran" means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released
532 under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, or
533 (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, as
534 amended by this act, who has received a discharge other than bad
535 conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

536 Sec. 16. Subsection (f) of section 14-36h of the 2018 supplement to
537 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
538 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

539 (f) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most
540 complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of
541 birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by
542 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity,
543 unless the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate
544 of civil union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent
545 jurisdiction pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name;
546 and (2) "veteran" means (A) any person honorably discharged from, or
547 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed
548 forces, as defined in [subsection (a) of] section 27-103, as amended by
549 this act, [and] (B) any former member of the armed forces who is
550 entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended
551 from time to time, or, but for age, would be so entitled, or (C) any
552 person with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, as
553 amended by this act, who has received a discharge other than bad
554 conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

555 Sec. 17. Subsection (c) of section 14-50 of the general statutes is

556 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
557 *October 1, 2018*):

558 (c) The commissioner shall waive any operator's license or
559 registration fee, including any renewal fee, in the case of any person in
560 the active service of the armed forces of the United States who was a
561 legal resident of Connecticut at the time of his or her induction; and for
562 one licensing period to any person (1) honorably separated from such
563 service, [who applies therefor] or (2) with a qualifying condition, as
564 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who has separated
565 from such service other than with a bad conduct characterization or
566 dishonorably, which person applies for such operator's license or
567 registration within two years following the date of separation and was
568 a legal resident of Connecticut at the time of his or her induction. The
569 commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
570 to implement the provisions of this subsection.

571 Sec. 18. Section 14-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the
572 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

573 "Disabled veteran", as used in this section, means (1) (A) any
574 veteran who [served] performed service in time of war, as defined [by]
575 in section 27-103, as amended by this act, or (B) any person with a
576 qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a
577 discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service
578 in the armed forces, as defined in said section, and who performed
579 service in time of war, and (2) (A) one or both of whose legs or arms or
580 parts thereof have been amputated or the use of which has been lost,
581 [or] (B) who is blind, [or who have traumatic brain injury, or]
582 paraplegic or hemiplegic, or (C) who has traumatic brain injury, any
583 such disability described in subdivision (2) of this section being
584 certified as service-connected by the [Veterans' Administration] United
585 States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commissioner of Motor
586 Vehicles, upon application of any disabled veteran accompanied by
587 such certificate of [the Veterans' Administration] said department,
588 shall issue without charge a special number plate or set of plates in

589 accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 14-21b to be
590 attached to a passenger motor vehicle owned or operated by such
591 disabled veteran and an identification card to be used in connection
592 therewith. The card shall identify the disabled veteran and the motor
593 vehicle and shall state that such [veteran is a] disabled veteran is
594 qualified to receive the card, that the card, plate or plates shall be
595 returned to the commissioner if the registration of the motor vehicle is
596 cancelled or transferred [,] and that the card is for the exclusive use of
597 the [person] disabled veteran to whom it is issued, is not transferable
598 and will be revoked if presented by any other person or if any
599 privilege granted under this section is abused. If not so revoked, the
600 card shall be renewable every four years at the time of registration of
601 motor vehicles. No penalty shall be imposed for the overtime parking
602 of any motor vehicle bearing a number plate issued under this section
603 when it has been so parked by the disabled veteran to whom the plate
604 and an identification card were issued or by any person operating such
605 vehicle when accompanied by such disabled veteran, provided the
606 length of time for which such vehicle may remain parked at any one
607 location shall not exceed twenty-four hours. The surviving spouse of a
608 disabled veteran issued such special registration may retain any such
609 registration and number plates without charge for his or her lifetime or
610 until such time as he or she remarries.

611 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 17b-28i of the general statutes is
612 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
613 *October 1, 2018*):

614 (a) To the extent permissible by federal law, the Commissioner of
615 Social Services shall disregard federal Aid and Attendance pension
616 benefits granted to a veteran [, as defined in section 27-103,] or the
617 surviving spouse of such veteran when determining income eligibility
618 for the state's Medicare savings, medical assistance and energy
619 assistance programs administered under section 17b-2. As used in this
620 subsection, "veteran" means any person (1) honorably discharged
621 from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in,
622 the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act,

623 or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
624 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
625 active service in the armed forces.

626 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 27-108 of the general statutes is
627 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
628 *October 1, 2018*):

629 (a) Any veteran [, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,]
630 who meets active military, naval or air service requirements, as
631 described in 38 USC 101, as amended from time to time, may apply for
632 admission to the Veterans Residential Services facility or Healthcare
633 Center; and any such veteran who has no adequate means of support,
634 and who, from disease, wounds or accident, needs medical or surgical
635 care and treatment or who has become mentally ill, may be admitted
636 to any hospital and receive necessary food, clothing, care and
637 treatment therein, at the expense of the state, unless other funds or
638 means of payment are available. Whenever a person is admitted to a
639 hospital, such person shall be asked if he or she is a veteran. Before a
640 hospital submits a bill for services pursuant to this section, such
641 hospital shall take sufficient steps to determine that no other funds or
642 means of payment are available to cover the cost of services rendered
643 to the veteran. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall make
644 available to hospitals a list of payment options and benefits available
645 to cover hospital costs of veterans. As used in this section, "veteran"
646 means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under
647 honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as
648 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, or (2) with a
649 qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a
650 discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service
651 in the armed forces.

652 Sec. 21. Section 27-109 of the general statutes is repealed and the
653 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

654 Any hospital, upon request of the commissioner, shall furnish any
655 veteran, determined by the commissioner to be entitled to admission

656 thereto, necessary food, clothing, care and treatment therein at the
657 expense of the state, unless other funds or means of payment are
658 available, and such veteran shall have preference for admission into
659 such hospital. As used in this section, "veteran" means any person (1)
660 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
661 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as
662 amended by this act, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in
663 said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
664 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

665 Sec. 22. Section 27-118 of the general statutes is repealed and the
666 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

667 When any veteran dies, not having sufficient estate to pay the
668 necessary expenses of the veteran's last sickness and burial, as
669 determined by the commissioner after consultation with the probate
670 court for the district in which the veteran resided, the state shall pay
671 the sum of one thousand eight hundred dollars toward such funeral
672 expenses, and the burial shall be in some cemetery or plot not used
673 exclusively for the burial of the pauper dead, and the same amount
674 shall be paid if the body is cremated, but no amount shall be paid for
675 the expenses for burial or cremation unless claim therefor is made
676 within one year from the date of death, except that in cases of death
677 occurring abroad, such claim may be made within one year after the
678 remains of such veteran have been interred in this country. No
679 provision of this section shall prevent the payment of the sum above
680 named for the burial of any person, otherwise entitled to the same, on
681 account of such burial being made outside the limits of this state. Upon
682 satisfactory proof by the person who has paid or provided for the
683 funeral or burial expense to the commissioner of the identity of the
684 deceased, the time and place of the deceased's death and burial and the
685 approval thereof by the commissioner, said sum of one thousand eight
686 hundred dollars shall be paid by the Comptroller to the person who
687 has paid the funeral or burial expense or, upon assignment by such
688 person, to the funeral director who has provided the funeral.
689 Whenever the Comptroller has lawfully paid any sum toward the

690 expenses of the burial of any deceased veteran and it afterwards
691 appears that the deceased left any estate, the Comptroller may present
692 a claim on behalf of the state against the estate of such deceased
693 veteran for the sum so paid, and the claim shall be a preferred claim
694 against such estate and shall be paid to the Treasurer of the state. The
695 commissioner, upon the advice of the Attorney General, may make
696 application for administration upon the estate of any such deceased
697 veteran if no other person authorized by law makes such application
698 within sixty days after such payment has been made by the
699 Comptroller. As used in this section, "veteran" means any person (1)
700 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
701 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as
702 amended by this act, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in
703 said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
704 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

705 Sec. 23. Section 27-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the
706 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

707 Any veteran who is a citizen of this state and who, through
708 disability or other causes incident to service in the armed forces in time
709 of war, is in need of temporary financial assistance may be provided
710 for by the commissioner by a method similar to that provided in
711 section 27-82, the amount and continuance of such assistance to be
712 discretionary with the commissioner. The widow, widower and each
713 child, parent, brother or sister of any member of the armed forces, who
714 died while in such active service, may be assisted by the commissioner
715 if such person or persons are without sufficient means of support by
716 reason of the death of such member of the armed forces. In carrying
717 out his or her duties under the provisions of this section, the
718 commissioner is directed to cooperate with such federal agencies as
719 may aid in securing prompt and suitable treatment, care and relief of
720 any such member of the armed forces or his or her dependents. The
721 records of the agencies of the state shall be placed at the disposal of the
722 commissioner and such agencies are directed to cooperate with and to
723 assist the commissioner in carrying out his or her duties. As used in

724 this section, "veteran" means any person (1) honorably discharged
725 from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in,
726 the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act,
727 or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
728 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
729 active service in the armed forces.

730 Sec. 24. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
731 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

732 All money so paid to and received by the American Legion shall be
733 expended by it in furnishing temporary income; subsistence items such
734 as food, wearing apparel, shelter and related expenses; medical or
735 surgical aid or care or relief (1) to, or in bearing the funeral expenses
736 of, soldiers, sailors or marines (A) (i) who performed service in time of
737 war, as defined in [subsection (a) of] section 27-103, as amended by
738 this act, in any branch of the military service of the United States,
739 including the Connecticut National Guard, or (ii) who were engaged in
740 any of the wars waged by the United States during said periods in the
741 forces of any government associated with the United States, (B) (i) who
742 have been honorably discharged therefrom or honorably released from
743 active service therein, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in
744 section 27-103, as amended by this act, who have received discharges
745 other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service therein,
746 and (C) who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at the time of
747 entering said armed forces of the United States, including the
748 Connecticut National Guard, or of any such government, [or] (2) to
749 their spouses who are living with them, [or] (3) to their widows or
750 widowers who were living with them at the time of death, or (4) to
751 dependent children under eighteen years of age, who may be in need
752 of the same. All such payments shall be made by the American Legion
753 under authority of its bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the
754 procedure for proof of eligibility for such aid, provided payments
755 made for the care and treatment of any person entitled to the benefits
756 provided for herein, at any hospital receiving aid from the General
757 Assembly unless special care and treatment are required, shall be in

758 accordance with the provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the
 759 sum expended for the care or treatment of such person at any other
 760 place than a state-aided hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost
 761 of supporting such person at the Healthcare Center in Rocky Hill
 762 maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, unless special care
 763 and treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by
 764 the treasurer of such organization may be paid therefor. Upon the
 765 completion of the trust provided for in section 27-138, the principal
 766 fund shall revert to the State Treasury.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	27-103(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	4a-59(c)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	5-196(28)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	5-224
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	8-75
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	10-5(b) and (c)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	10-221a(i)(1)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2018, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2018</i>	12-81(19)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2018, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2018</i>	12-81(22)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2018, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2018</i>	12-81(25)
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	12-412(63)(D)
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	14-20b(a)
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	14-36h(f)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	14-50(c)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	14-254

Sec. 19	October 1, 2018	17b-28i(a)
Sec. 20	October 1, 2018	27-108(a)
Sec. 21	October 1, 2018	27-109
Sec. 22	October 1, 2018	27-118
Sec. 23	October 1, 2018	27-125
Sec. 24	October 1, 2018	27-140

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a)(5), after "38 USC 1720D," "as amended from time to time," was inserted for accuracy and consistency; in Section 2(c)(D)(i), "who has been honorably" was changed to "honorably" for consistency; in Section 10(e)(2), "such veteran is accepted for admission to [said] such institution" was changed to "such veteran or person is accepted for admission to said institution" for accuracy and consistency; in Sections 11 to 13, inclusive, in the effective dates "*and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2018*" was inserted for clarity; in Section 15, the definition of "member of the armed forces" was added for clarity and consistency; and in Section 17, "his" was changed to "his or her" throughout for accuracy and consistency.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Resources of the Special Transportation Fund	TF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Explanation

This bill expands eligibility for veteran benefits and results in costs to multiple agencies and revenue loss to the General Fund, Special Transportation Fund, and municipalities.

The bill expands veteran’s benefits to those who were discharged under conditions other than honorable and have a qualifying condition. Under the bill “qualifying condition” is post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or a military sexual trauma experience. It is estimated that this bill would affect approximately 800 people¹, but this populations utilization rates of the veteran benefits is unknown. Below is a list of non-wartime and wartime

¹ Source: Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School and the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

benefits with a fiscal impact that this population could be eligible for².

Non-Wartime Benefits:

- **Veterans Small Business:** Effective October 1, 2016, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) provides certain veteran-owned businesses with up to a 15% price preference for certain open market orders or contracts.
- **High School Diploma:** The exam fee waiver for high school diplomas is waived for veterans.
- **Veterans Agriculture Program:** This program gives a tax incentive to encourage certain veterans to start a farming business. The average incentive provided for a start-up farmer is less than \$1,500.
- **Certain Veteran Benefits Not Included in Assistance Program Eligibility Calculations:** The Department of Social Services commissioner disregards a veteran's or surviving spouse's federal aid and attendance pension benefits when calculating income for certain assistance programs.

Wartime Benefits:

- **Retirement Credit:** Special service credit for members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System for those who leave employment to enter the armed services and then return to employment within six months of discharge. Also, state workers in hazardous duty service who were granted military leave and returned within 90 days of discharge receive retirement credit for the period of their wartime service.
- **Tuition waivers:** State public colleges and universities except for Charter Oak State College waive tuition for

² All veterans are eligible for non-wartime benefits but additional requirements must be met for wartime benefits.

wartime veterans who are accepted into the institution and live in the state.

- **Property Tax Exemptions:** State law provides a minimum of \$1,500 in municipal property tax exemptions. Municipalities also have the option to exempt \$20,000 or 10% of a property's assessed value in addition to the veterans' exemptions.
- **Motor Vehicle Registration Fee Exemptions:** The law authorizes free motor vehicle registration if a wartime veteran is disabled, former prisoner of war, or recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- **Disabled Veterans License Plates:** The Commissioner of the DMV will issue free number plates to a disabled veteran. These plates exempt the veteran from overtime parking fines provided they don't leave their vehicle in the same spot for over 24 hours.
- **Admission to the Veterans Healthcare Center:** Wartime veterans are eligible for admission to the Veterans Healthcare Center. They are also eligible for admission to certain hospitals at state expense unless other funds are available.
- **Burial Expenses:** If a wartime veteran dies without enough money to pay for burial expenses as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), the state must pay \$1,800 towards his or her funeral expenses.
- **Commissioner's Temporary Assistance:** Wartime veterans with a disability or other service-related cause are eligible for temporary financial assistance from the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in an amount and for a time he decides.
- **Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund:** Provides temporary aid to needy wartime veterans and their spouses and

dependent children.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 284*****AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY OR WHO HAVE HAD AN EXPERIENCE OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.*****SUMMARY**

This bill extends certain benefits, available to veterans honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in the armed forces, to veterans who (1) were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable or for bad conduct (i.e., veterans with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge), and (2) have a qualifying condition.

Under the bill a “qualifying condition” means a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by, or a military sexual trauma experience disclosed to, an individual licensed to provide care at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility.

Specifically, the bill extends the following benefits to veterans with an OTH discharge and a qualifying condition:

1. veterans small business price preference for certain state open market orders and contracts (§ 2);
2. special service credit for state employee retirement (war time service is generally counted as state service for retirement purposes)(§ 3);
3. civil service exam bonus points (§ 4);
4. preference for Department of Economic Development-funded low- or moderate-income rental housing (§ 5);

5. state high school diploma exam fee waiver (§ 6);
6. honorary high school diploma, if the veteran withdrew from high school for military service in World War II, the Korean Hostilities, or during the Vietnam era, and consequently did not receive a diploma (§ 7);
7. tuition waivers for the state's public colleges and universities if the veteran served in time of war (§§ 8-10);
8. state-mandated wartime property tax exemptions (minimum \$1,500)(§§ 11-13);
9. farmer tax exemption (§ 14);
10. special veterans license plates, including for vehicles used exclusively for farming (§ 15);
11. veterans status on driver's license and identity card (§ 16);
12. motor vehicle license and registration fee exemption for one licensing period if the veteran was a legal resident of Connecticut at the time of his or her induction and applies within two years following the date of separation (§ 17);
13. exemption from overtime parking fines, with certain exceptions, for disabled veterans who served in a time of war (see BACKGROUND) and their surviving spouse (§ 18);
14. disregard of federal Aid and Attendance Pension benefits (see BACKGROUND) when calculating income for means-tested assistance programs (e.g., Medicaid) (§ 19);
15. admission to the Veterans Residential Services facility or Healthcare Center (§ 20);
16. preference for admission into any hospital, upon the Veterans Affairs commissioner's request, at the state's expense unless other means of payment are available (§ 21);

17. \$1,800 toward funeral expenses or cremation (§ 22);
18. temporary financial assistance for wartime veterans (§ 23); and
19. temporary aid (such as food, clothing, and medical and surgical aid) from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (§ 24).

The bill also makes technical, minor, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018; the sections on property tax exemption (§§ 11-13) apply to assessment years beginning on or after that date.

VETERANS BENEFITS

The bill extends certain benefits to veterans with an OTH discharge and a qualifying condition under the same terms and conditions under which those benefits are available to veterans honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service. As under existing law, some of these benefits are limited to veterans with war time service only.

Small Business Preference (§ 2)

The law provides certain veteran-owned businesses with up to a 15% price preference for certain Department of Administrative Services open market orders or contracts. The businesses must have gross revenue under \$3 million in the most recently completed fiscal year and have one or more veterans hold at least 51% ownership (CGS § 4a-59(c)).

Civil Service Exam Bonus Points (§ 4)

The law gives bonus points to certain veterans who pass an initial state and municipal civil service examination held to establish a candidate list. If an honorably discharged or released veteran served in a military action and received or is entitled to receive a campaign badge or expeditionary medal and is not otherwise eligible to receive bonus points, he or she qualifies for five bonus points on these exams (CGS § 5-224).

Tuition Waivers (§§ 8-10)

The law requires the state's public colleges and universities to waive tuition for wartime veterans who are accepted at an approved institution and live in the state at the time of the acceptance.

The waiver applies at community-technical colleges, the Connecticut State University System (CSUS), and the University of Connecticut (UConn)(CGS §§ 10a-77, 10a-99 & 10a-105).

State Mandated Property Tax Exemption (§§ 11-13)

The law requires municipalities to exempt \$1,000 of the property owned by a veteran from taxation (i.e., basic exemption). The law also extends this benefit to certain surviving spouses and minor children (CGS § 12-81(19), (22) & (25)).

Farmer Tax Exemption (§ 14)

By law the Department of Revenue Services may issue a farmer tax exemption permit to a farmer, if the farmer is a veteran who never owned or leased property for commercial agricultural production or who owned or leased property for such purpose for less than two years (CGS § 12-412(D)(63)).

Special License Plate (§ 15)

The law allows any type of motor vehicle owned or leased by a veteran or his or her surviving spouse for one year or longer to qualify for special veterans' license plates. It also requires the DMV commissioner to issue a special registration certificate and a set of number plates to veterans, armed forces members, or their surviving spouses for any motor vehicle they use exclusively for farming, as long as they engage in agricultural production as a trade or profession (CGS § 14-20b).

Veterans Status on Driver's License and Identity Card (§ 16)

By law, the DMV commissioner must include a person's status as a veteran on his or her state driver's license or identity card. To qualify, the person must request that his or her veteran status be included. The

Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the requester's status to the DMV commissioner (CGS § 14-36h).

Overtime Parking Fine (§ 18)

The law entitles disabled wartime veterans with certain Veteran Affairs-rated disabilities, upon application, to a free special license that exempts them from overtime parking fines, provided they do not leave their vehicles at the same spot for more than 24 hours. Surviving spouses may keep the plates and identification cards until death or remarriage (CGS § 14-254).

Temporary Assistance (§ 23)

Under the law, wartime veterans who need help because of a disability or other service-related cause may receive temporary financial assistance from the veterans' affairs commissioner. He may also help the spouse, parents, children, or siblings of any veteran who died as a result of such service if they cannot support themselves because of the veteran's death (CGS § 27-125).

Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (§ 24)

By law, this fund provides temporary aid (such as food, clothing, and medical and surgical aid), general care and relief, or burial expenses to needy wartime veterans or their (1) spouses living with them or who lived with them when they died or (2) dependent children under age 18. The veteran must live in the state when he or she applies for and while getting the assistance (CGS § 27-138 et seq.).

BACKGROUND

War Time Service

Table 1 summarizes the dates and service conditions that constitute "service in time of war."

Table 1: Post-1940 "Service in Time of War"

<i>Operation</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Service Condition</i>
World War II	12/07/41-12/31/47*	Active service during the war
Korean War	06/27/50-01/31/55	Active service during the war
Lebanon Conflict	07/01/58-11/01/58 or 09/29/82-	Combat or combat-support role

	03/30/84	in Lebanon
Vietnam Era	02/28/61-07/01/75	Active service during the war
Grenada invasion	10/25/83-12/15/83	Combat or combat-support role in Grenada required
Operation Earnest Will (escort of Kuwaiti tankers flying U.S. flag in Persian Gulf)	07/24/87-08/01/90	Combat or combat-support role required in the operation
Panama invasion	12/20/89-01/31/90	Combat or combat-support role required in the invasion
Persian Gulf War	08/02/1990 until a date prescribed by the President or law	Active-service anywhere during the war (not necessarily in the Persian Gulf or in a combat role)

*Ending dates specified in [CGS § 12-86](#) for property tax exemptions.

Aid and Attendance

The Aid and Attendance monthly pension amount may be added to a veteran's monthly pension amount for veterans who need aid to perform personal everyday living functions, are bedridden, are in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, or have specific limited eyesight.

Related Bill

sSB 288, favorably reported by the Veterans Committee, requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, when determining income eligibility for certain state assistance programs, to disregard all non-service-connected pension benefits granted to veterans or their surviving spouses, instead of only the federal Aid and Attendance pension benefits. She must do so to the extent allowed by federal law.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)