

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-801

AN ACT EXPANDING CERTAIN VETERANS' ACCESS TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill will result in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with disregarding all federal non-service-connected pension benefits for veterans or their surviving spouses for purposes of determining income eligibility. By reducing the income that is currently counted towards income limits, the bill increases the number of individuals who could be eligible under the following DSS programs: Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Program, State Administered General Assistance, Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, State Supplement (Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled), and fuel and weatherization assistance.

For context, there were 177,000 veterans in Connecticut on 9/30/18. The number of veterans participating in the assistance programs specified by the bill is unknown. The impact of the bill is dependent on: (1) the number of veterans participating in each DSS program, (2) the benefit amount being disregarded, and (3) the income limits of the program.

### ***The Out Years***

Primary Analyst: ES  
Contributing Analyst(s): ME, HW  
Reviewer: HW

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The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of applicable veterans in DSS programs and the amount of benefits being disregarded.