OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7061

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFERING OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES FROM THE STATE MOTOR POOL TO VETERANS’ CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires a qualified veterans’ charitable organization to donate to eligible veterans surplus vehicles it purchased for less than $2,000 through the Department of Administrative Service’s (DAS) multistep property distribution program (see below). The organization must pay the Department of Motor Vehicles costs and fees associated with the transfer of ownership.

Under the bill, an eligible veteran is a disabled wartime veteran in Connecticut who the qualified veterans’ charitable organization identifies and determines is in need of financial assistance.

Under the bill, a qualified veterans’ charitable organization is not required to donate to veterans, vehicles it (1) purchases from DAS at a public auction or (2) receives from DAS as a donation. The bill sets a $2,000 minimum price for any vehicle the DAS commissioner sells to a qualified veterans’ charitable organization at a public auction.

(The bill does not prevent the commissioner from donating a vehicle to a veterans’ charitable organization at the point when the law first allows it (see step 3 below). As such, it appears the bill’s new donation requirements can be bypassed.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

By law, the DAS commissioner administers a property distribution program, a multi-step process for disposing usable surplus agency property, including motor vehicles, between state agencies.
Under current law, the steps of the process are as follows:

**Step 1:**
If no state agency claims the property, DAS must offer to sell it to municipalities and transit districts.

**Step 2:**
If no municipality or transit district purchases it, DAS must offer to sell it at a public auction. (The bill sets a minimum price of $2,000 for any vehicle the DAS commissioner sells to a qualified veterans’ charitable organization at a public auction.)

**Step 3:**
If DAS cannot transfer or sell the vehicle, it may donate it to a nonprofit organization. (The bill allows the commissioner, if he does not transfer, sell, or donate the vehicle, to sell it to a qualified veterans’ charitable organization for less than $2,000.)

**DEFINITIONS**

**Veterans**
A “veteran” is anyone honorably discharged from or released under honorable conditions from active service in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, or any reserve component, including the National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of federal law (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions) (CGS § 27-103).

**Qualified Veterans’ Organization**
A “qualified veterans’ charitable organization” is one that: (1) holds itself out to be established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, patriotic, social welfare, or advocacy purpose relating to or on behalf of veterans; and (2) has been a Connecticut nonstock corporation for three or more years or a 501(c) tax exempt organization for three or more consecutive years. The Veterans’ Affairs Department maintains and publishes a list of qualified veterans’ charitable organizations (CGS § 27-100f).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea  16  Nay  0  (02/19/2019)