OLR Bill Analysis
SB 951 (File 167, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERAN ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN ALT
ERATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Education (SDE) to reserve, for veterans, 10% of seats available in the existing alternate route to certification program (i.e., a program through which individuals from an alternate profession can attain their initial educator certificate). Under the bill, a veteran is anyone honorably discharged, 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(a)).

Under the bill and existing law, such veterans must hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, or that is regionally accredited. Seats not filled by veterans must be made available for all persons from an alternate profession (see below).

The bill also makes technical changes.

*Senate Amendment “A” reduces, from 15% to 10%, the percentage of available seats in the alternate route to certification program that the bill requires SDE to reserve for veterans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

PERSONS FROM AN ALTERNATE PROFESSION

By law, “persons from an alternate profession” means a person who holds at least a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher
education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or that is regionally accredited, and:

1. is a paraeducator;

2. is a veteran;

3. holds a charter school educator permit, issued by the State Board of Education; or

4. is employed or was previously employed as a professor at an accredited institution of higher education.

It also includes individuals who hold a master's degree from (1) a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or (2) an equivalent educational program if educated outside the United States or its territories (CGS § 10-145w).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea  16    Nay  0    (03/12/2019)