

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6482

AN ACT EXCLUDING FEDERAL VETERANS' BENEFITS FROM
INCOME ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 22 \$ | FY 23 \$ |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Social Services, Dept. | GF - Cost | Indeterminate | Indeterminate |

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 any federal 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 Supplement (Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled), State Administered General Assistance, Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, and energy assistance.

For context, there were 167,000 veterans in Connecticut on 9/30/20. 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

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