

# Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6480

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNERAL EXPENSES OF CERTAIN VETERANS.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/23/2021

**File No.:** 239

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill amends Section 27-118 of the CGS to expand the funeral expenses for which the families of certain deceased veterans can be reimbursed. This offers families the flexibility to use these financial resources on a wider list of funeral expenses, including obituaries, which can be prohibitively expensive.

\*\*\*Proposed Substitute Language: In section (f), line 44, definition of "funeral expenses" was expanded to "(A) the cost of funeral services, funeral merchandise and cash advances paid by the funeral director, (B) the cost of burial, cremation or disposition, and (C) the cost of publication of an obituary. "Funeral merchandise" includes, but is not limited to, alternate containers, caskets, urns, vaults, and outer burial containers." This language was expanded at the request of Connecticut Funeral Directors Association to create more clarity on allowed expenses.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Nicole Paquette, Co-Legislative Chair, Connecticut Funeral Directors Association, Inc.:](#) Ms. Paquette submitted written and spoken testimony in support of this bill. She shared her experience as a funeral director and provided a proposed amendment to better define the meaning of "funeral expenses."

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed

**Reported by: Erica Byrne, Clerk**

**Date: March 25, 2021**