



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 226**

February Session, 2022

Senate Bill No. 347

*Senate, March 30, 2022*

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. CABRERA of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CREDITING MILITARY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TOWARD CERTAIN LICENSES RELATED TO SUBSURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 31-22u of the 2022 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

4 (a) Any member of the armed forces or National Guard or any  
5 veteran, within two years of such veteran's discharge from the armed  
6 forces, may submit an application for military training evaluation to the  
7 Labor Department program of apprentice training set forth in section  
8 31-22q. Such application shall include (1) evidence of satisfactory  
9 completion of a program or course of instruction as part of military  
10 training that is equivalent in content and quality to that required for a  
11 specific trade in this state, and (2) if such applicant is a veteran, such  
12 veteran's military discharge document or a certified copy thereof.

13        (b) (1) The Labor Commissioner shall evaluate any such application  
14 and determine whether the applicant's military training may be  
15 substituted for (A) all or part of the term of an apprenticeship program  
16 registered with the Labor Department for a specific trade, [ If] or (B) an  
17 apprentice's permit issued by the Department of Public Health under  
18 subsection (b) of section 20-341d for subsurface sewage disposal system  
19 work.

20        (2) In the case of a specific trade under subparagraph (A) of  
21 subdivision (1) of this subsection, if the commissioner determines that  
22 the applicant's military training is equivalent to the training required for  
23 completion of [such] an apprenticeship program for such trade, the  
24 commissioner shall issue such applicant a recommendation for review  
25 by the appropriate examining board established under section 20-331.  
26 Presentation of such recommendation, pursuant to section 20-333, as  
27 amended by this act, shall allow such applicant to sit for any licensure  
28 examination without [participation] such applicant having participated  
29 in an apprenticeship program. If the commissioner determines that the  
30 applicant's military training is equivalent to part of the training required  
31 for completion of an apprenticeship program, such applicant's hours of  
32 qualified military training, as determined by the commissioner, shall be  
33 deducted from the hours of apprenticeship training required for the  
34 specific trade, provided (A) such applicant completes the minimum  
35 number of hours of apprenticeship training required under federal law,  
36 and (B) prior to implementation of this provision, the Labor Department  
37 obtains concurrence with such provision from the federal office of  
38 apprenticeship pursuant to 29 CFR 29.13(b)(9).

39        (3) In the case of subsurface sewage disposal system work under  
40 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, if the  
41 commissioner determines that the applicant's military training is  
42 equivalent to the apprentice's permit issued for such work, the  
43 commissioner shall issue such applicant a recommendation for review  
44 by the Department of Public Health. Presentation of such  
45 recommendation, pursuant to section 20-341e, as amended by this act,  
46 shall allow such applicant to sit for any licensure examination without

47 such applicant having been issued an apprentice's permit.

48 (c) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" and "armed forces" have  
49 the same meanings as provided in section 27-103, and "military  
50 discharge document" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-  
51 219.

52 Sec. 2. Section 20-341e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

54 (a) The Department of Public Health shall hold at least four  
55 examinations each year, at such times and in such locations as may be  
56 convenient. Notice of the time and place of each examination shall be  
57 given in writing to each applicant at least ten days prior to the  
58 examination. To obtain a license an applicant shall furnish such  
59 evidence of competency as said department shall require. A  
60 recommendation for review issued pursuant to subdivision (3) of  
61 subsection (b) of section 31-22u, as amended by this act, shall be  
62 sufficient to demonstrate such competency. The applicant shall satisfy  
63 said department that he has the requisite skill to perform the work of a  
64 subsurface sewage disposal system installer or cleaner and can comply  
65 with all other requirements of this chapter. A recommendation for  
66 review issued pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 31-  
67 22u, as amended by this act, shall be sufficient to demonstrate that an  
68 applicant has such requisite skill and can comply with all other  
69 requirements of this chapter and the regulations adopted under this  
70 chapter. Upon application to said department for a license, the applicant  
71 shall pay to said department a fee of fifty dollars for a subsurface sewage  
72 disposal system installer license or twenty dollars for a subsurface  
73 sewage disposal system cleaner license. Any such fee shall be waived  
74 for persons who present a recommendation for review issued pursuant  
75 to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 31-22u, as amended by this  
76 act. The applicant shall present himself at the next regular examination.

77 (b) The Department of Public Health shall conduct such written, oral  
78 and practical examinations as it deems necessary to test the knowledge  
79 of the applicant for a subsurface sewage disposal system installer's

80 license on sewage disposal system construction and installation or to  
81 test the knowledge of the applicant for a subsurface sewage disposal  
82 system cleaner on subsurface sewage disposal system cleaning and  
83 servicing. The department shall allow any applicant who has not been  
84 issued an apprentice's permit, but who presents a recommendation for  
85 review pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 31-22u, as  
86 amended by this act, to sit for any such examination.

87 (c) When an applicant has qualified for a license, the department shall  
88 issue to such person a license entitling him to engage in the work or  
89 occupation of subsurface sewage disposal system installer or subsurface  
90 sewage disposal system cleaner until the date for renewal under section  
91 19a-88. All fees collected by said department shall be promptly  
92 transmitted to the State Treasurer.

93 Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 20-333 of the 2022  
94 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
95 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

96 (a) To obtain a license under this chapter, an applicant shall have  
97 attained such applicant's eighteenth birthday and shall furnish such  
98 evidence of competency as the appropriate board or the Commissioner  
99 of Consumer Protection shall require. A recommendation for review  
100 issued pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-22u, as  
101 amended by this act, shall be sufficient to demonstrate such  
102 competency. The applicant shall satisfy such board or the commissioner  
103 that such applicant possesses a diploma or other evidence of graduation  
104 from the eighth grade of grammar school, or possesses an equivalent  
105 education to be determined on examination and has the requisite skill  
106 to perform the work in the trade for which such applicant is applying  
107 for a license and can comply with all other requirements of this chapter  
108 and the regulations adopted under this chapter. A recommendation for  
109 review issued pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-  
110 22u, as amended by this act, shall be sufficient to demonstrate that an  
111 applicant [possesses] has such requisite skill and can comply with all  
112 other requirements of this chapter and the regulations adopted under

113 this chapter. For any application submitted pursuant to this section that  
114 requires a hearing or other action by the applicable examining board or  
115 the commissioner, such hearing or other action by the applicable  
116 examining board or the commissioner shall occur not later than thirty  
117 days after the date of submission for such application. Upon application  
118 for any such license, the applicant shall pay to the department a  
119 nonrefundable application fee of ninety dollars for a license under  
120 subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) and subdivision (4) of  
121 subsection (e) of section 20-334a, or a nonrefundable application fee of  
122 one hundred fifty dollars for a license under subdivision (1) of  
123 subsection (a), subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (b), subdivision (1)  
124 of subsection (c) and subdivisions (1), (2) and (3) of subsection (e) of  
125 section 20-334a. Any such application fee shall be waived for persons  
126 who present a recommendation for review issued pursuant to  
127 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-22u, as amended by this  
128 act.

129 (b) The department shall conduct such written, oral and practical  
130 examinations as the appropriate board, with the consent of the  
131 commissioner, deems necessary to test the knowledge of the applicant  
132 in the work for which a license is being sought. The department shall  
133 allow any applicant [,] who has not participated in an apprenticeship  
134 program, but who presents a recommendation for review issued  
135 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 31-22u, as  
136 amended by this act, to sit for any such examination. Any person  
137 completing the required apprentice training program for a  
138 journeyman's license under section 20-334a shall, within thirty days  
139 following such completion, apply for a licensure examination given by  
140 the department. If an applicant does not pass such licensure  
141 examination, the commissioner shall provide each failed applicant with  
142 information on how to retake the examination and a report describing  
143 the applicant's strengths and weaknesses in such examination. Any  
144 apprentice permit issued under section 20-334a to an applicant who fails  
145 three licensure examinations in any one-year period shall remain in  
146 effect if such applicant applies for and takes the first licensure  
147 examination given by the department following the one-year period

148 from the date of such applicant's third and last unsuccessful licensure  
149 examination. Otherwise, such permit shall be revoked as of the date of  
150 the first examination given by the department following expiration of  
151 such one-year period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	31-22u
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	20-341e
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	20-333(a) and (b)

**VA**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which expands a military experience substitution program to subsurface sewage disposal system installer or cleaner licensing exams and provides a waiver of associated license fees, results in a potential minimal revenue loss to the General Fund beginning in FY 23.

The license fees are \$50 for an installer license and \$20 for a cleaner license. The aggregate annual revenue loss is dependent on the number of participants in the program each year.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to fluctuation in the number of applicants.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 347*****AN ACT CREDITING MILITARY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TOWARD CERTAIN LICENSES RELATED TO SUBSURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a process by which someone with military experience may qualify to sit for the Department of Public Health (DPH) subsurface sewage disposal system installer or cleaner licensing exam without having to obtain an apprentice's permit first (see BACKGROUND and COMMENT).

Existing law allows a person, within two years of discharge from the armed forces, to apply to the labor department's apprenticeship training program to have his or her military experience satisfy requirements for conducting certain trades in Connecticut. The bill includes a DPH apprenticeship permit for subsurface sewage disposal work as a qualification for which the labor commissioner may substitute someone's military experience.

Under the bill, if the labor commissioner determines that an applicant's military training is equivalent to the DPH apprentice permit for subsurface sewage disposal system work, she must issue the applicant a recommendation for review by DPH. The bill (1) requires DPH to allow an applicant with the recommendation to take the licensure examination without having to obtain an apprentice's permit and (2) specifies that the recommendation is sufficient to show competency, requisite skill, and the ability to comply with applicable laws and regulations. For these applicants, the bill also waives the \$50 installer license fee and \$20 cleaner license fee.

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.



EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Subsurface Sewage Disposal System Work***

A subsurface sewage disposal system is a septic tank and its associated leaching pits, trenches, beds, or galleries. A system installer is someone licensed to construct, install, repair, clean, or service these systems. A system cleaner is licensed only to clean or service them (CGS § 20-341a).

## **COMMENT**

### ***Apprenticeship Permit Not a Prerequisite for Exam***

The bill allows individuals with certain military experience to obtain a recommendation for review from the labor department to enable them to sit for the subsurface sewage disposal system licensing exams without first obtaining a DPH apprentice's permit. Under existing law, DPH issues one-year apprentice's permits for those who will work under the supervision of a licensed subsurface sewage disposal system installer or cleaner. These permits, however, are not required to sit for the licensing exams.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/15/2022)