



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 225

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6004

House of Representatives, March 27, 2023

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. NOLAN of the 39th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ELIMINATING SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR AS AN ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS' BENEFITS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of
5 the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child
6 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to
7 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in
8 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted
9 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
10 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
11 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in
12 section 27-103, who [performed service in time of war, as defined in
13 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in
14 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military

15 service academy, which veteran] has been accepted for admission to
16 such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is
17 accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the
18 state sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at the end of the regular
19 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
20 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to
21 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to
22 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
23 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut State
24 Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said
25 academy offered in coordination with a regional community-technical
26 college which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active
27 member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has
28 been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's
29 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled
30 or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time
31 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, (6) for any
32 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or
33 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in
34 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal
35 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in
36 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child
37 or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of
38 this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was
39 killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and
40 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of
41 the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who
42 was killed in action while performing active military duty with the
43 armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and
44 who was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition
45 waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
46 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
47 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
48 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this
49 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving

50 tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional community-
51 technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as
52 used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for
53 less than one year.

54 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
56 *1, 2023*):

57 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees at the
58 Connecticut State University System (1) for any dependent child of a
59 person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be
60 missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such
61 armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for
62 admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
63 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
64 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in
65 section 27-103, who [performed service in time of war, as defined in
66 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in
67 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military
68 service academy, which veteran] has been accepted for admission to
69 such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is
70 accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the
71 state sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for
72 admission to such institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in
73 a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration
74 period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students
75 other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this
76 subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to enroll
77 and there is space available in such course after accommodating all such
78 students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police Academy
79 who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said academy offered
80 in coordination with the university which accredits courses taken in
81 such program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or
82 Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General
83 or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of

84 the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such
85 institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or
86 graduate degree-granting program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A)
87 police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or
88 auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or
89 member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D)
90 state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7)
91 for any resident of this state who is a dependent child or surviving
92 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state, (8)
93 for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a
94 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
95 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of the state
96 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was
97 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
98 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was
99 a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in
100 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
101 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
102 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
103 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this
104 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
105 tuition waivers in registering for courses at Connecticut state
106 universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used
107 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less
108 than one year.

109 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is
110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
111 *1, 2023*):

112 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at
113 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person
114 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing
115 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed
116 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission
117 to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time

118 such child is accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the
119 provisions of subsection (f) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in
120 section 27-103, who [performed service in time of war, as defined in
121 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in
122 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military
123 service academy, which veteran] has been accepted for admission to
124 said institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is
125 accepted for admission to said institution, (3) for any resident of the state
126 sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to
127 said institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-
128 granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period,
129 there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other
130 than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to
131 offer the course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is
132 space available in such course after accommodating all such students,
133 (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National
134 Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such
135 Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard,
136 and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to said institution on a full-
137 time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-
138 granting program, (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as
139 defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer,
140 (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire
141 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in
142 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state
143 who is the dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist
144 victim who was a resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a
145 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
146 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
147 and (8) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
148 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
149 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
150 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any
151 person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions
152 of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an

153 employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
154 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National
155 Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the
156 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for
157 courses at The University of Connecticut. Notwithstanding the
158 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in
159 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

160 Sec. 4. Section 5-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the
161 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

162 Any veteran, [who served in time of war,] if such veteran is not
163 eligible for disability compensation or pension from the United States
164 Department of Veterans Affairs, or the spouse of such veteran who by
165 reason of such veteran's disability is unable to pursue gainful
166 employment, or the unmarried surviving spouse of such veteran, and if
167 such person has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any
168 examination held for an original appointment for the purpose of
169 establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance with
170 subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall have five points added to [his or
171 her] such person's earned rating. Any such veteran, or the spouse of
172 such veteran who by reason of such veteran's disability is unable to
173 pursue gainful employment, or the unmarried surviving spouse of such
174 veteran, if such person is eligible for such disability compensation or
175 pension and if such person has attained at least the minimum earned
176 rating on any such examination held for an original appointment for the
177 purpose of establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance
178 with subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall have ten points added to [his
179 or her] such person's earned rating. Any veteran who has served in a
180 military action for which such [person] veteran received or was entitled
181 to receive a campaign badge or expeditionary medal, shall have five
182 points added to [his or her] such veteran's earned rating if such [person]
183 veteran has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any such
184 examination held for an original appointment for the purpose of
185 establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance with
186 subsection (d) of section 5-228 and such [person] veteran is not

187 otherwise eligible to receive additional points pursuant to this section.
188 Any person who is a member of the armed forces, as defined in section
189 27-103, and who is in the final year of an enlistment contract with any
190 branch of the armed forces shall have five points added to [his or her]
191 such person's earned rating if such person has attained at least the
192 minimum earned rating on any such examination held for an original
193 appointment for the purpose of establishing a candidate list to fill a
194 vacancy in accordance with subsection (d) of section 5-228. Names of
195 any such persons shall be placed upon the candidate lists in the order of
196 such augmented ratings. Credits shall be based upon examinations with
197 a possible rating of one hundred points.

198 Sec. 5. Section 7-415 of the general statutes is repealed and the
199 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

200 Any veteran_z [who served in time of war, if he] if such veteran is not
201 eligible for disability compensation or pension from the United States
202 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and if [he]
203 such veteran has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any
204 examination held for the purpose of establishing an employment list for
205 original appointment shall have five points added to [his] such veteran's
206 earned rating. Any such veteran, if [he] such veteran is eligible for such
207 disability compensation or pension and if [he] such veteran has attained
208 at least the minimum earned rating on any such examination, shall have
209 ten points added to [his] such veteran's earned rating. Names of
210 veterans shall be placed on the list of eligibles in the order of such
211 augmented rating. Credits shall be based upon examinations with a
212 possible rating of one hundred points. No such points shall be added to
213 any earned rating in any civil service or merit examination except as
214 provided in this section, the provisions of any municipal charter or
215 special act notwithstanding.

216 Sec. 6. Section 27-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the
217 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

218 Any veteran who is a citizen of this state and who, through disability
219 or other causes incident to service in the armed forces_z [in time of war,]

220 is in need of temporary financial assistance may be provided for by the
221 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs by a method similar to that provided
222 in section 27-82, the amount and continuance of such assistance to be
223 discretionary with the commissioner. The widow, widower and each
224 child, parent, brother or sister of any member of the armed forces, who
225 died while in such active service, may be assisted by the commissioner
226 if such person or persons are without sufficient means of support by
227 reason of the death of such member of the armed forces. In carrying out
228 [his or her] the commissioner's duties under the provisions of this
229 section, the commissioner is directed to cooperate with such federal
230 agencies as may aid in securing prompt and suitable treatment, care and
231 relief of any such member of the armed forces or [his or her] such
232 member's dependents. The records of the agencies of the state shall be
233 placed at the disposal of the commissioner and such agencies are
234 directed to cooperate with and to assist the commissioner in carrying
235 out [his or her] the commissioner's duties. As used in this section,
236 "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

237 Sec. 7. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
238 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

239 All money so paid to and received by the American Legion shall be
240 expended by it in furnishing temporary income; subsistence items such
241 as food, wearing apparel, shelter and related expenses; medical or
242 surgical aid or care or relief (1) to, or in bearing the funeral expenses of,
243 soldiers, sailors or marines (A) (i) who [performed service in time of
244 war, as defined in section 27-103,] served in any branch of the military
245 service of the United States, including the Connecticut National Guard,
246 or (ii) who were engaged in any of the wars waged by the United States
247 during said periods in the forces of any government associated with the
248 United States, (B) who are or were veterans, as defined in section 27-103,
249 and (C) who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at the time of
250 entering said armed forces of the United States, including the
251 Connecticut National Guard, or of any such government, (2) to their
252 spouses who are living with them, (3) to their widows or widowers who
253 were living with them at the time of death, or (4) to dependent children

254 under eighteen years of age, who may be in need of [the same] such
255 temporary income, subsistence items, medical or surgical aid or care or
256 relief. All such payments shall be made by the American Legion under
257 authority of its bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the procedure for
258 proof of eligibility for such aid, provided payments made for the care
259 and treatment of any person entitled to the benefits provided for
260 [herein] in this section, at any hospital receiving aid from the General
261 Assembly unless special care and treatment are required, shall be in
262 accordance with the provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the
263 sum expended for the care or treatment of such person at any other place
264 than a state-aided hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost of
265 supporting such person at the Healthcare Center in Rocky Hill
266 maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, unless special care
267 and treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by
268 the treasurer of such organization may be paid [therefor] for such care
269 and treatment. Upon the completion of the trust provided for in section
270 27-138, the principal fund shall revert to the State Treasury.

271 Sec. 8. Section 14-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the
272 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

273 "Disabled veteran", as used in this section, means (1) any veteran, as
274 defined in section 27-103, [who performed service in time of war, as
275 defined in section 27-103,] and (2) (A) one or both of whose legs or arms
276 or parts thereof have been amputated or the use of which has been lost,
277 (B) who is blind, paraplegic or hemiplegic, or (C) who has traumatic
278 brain injury, any such disability described in subdivision (2) of this
279 section being certified as service-connected by the United States
280 Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,
281 upon application of any disabled veteran accompanied by such
282 certificate of United States Department of Veterans Affairs, shall issue
283 without charge a special number plate or set of plates in accordance with
284 the provisions of subsection (a) of section 14-21b to be attached to a
285 passenger motor vehicle owned or operated by such disabled veteran
286 and an identification card to be used in connection therewith. The card
287 shall identify the disabled veteran and the motor vehicle and shall state

288 that such disabled veteran is qualified to receive the card, that the card,
289 plate or plates shall be returned to the commissioner if the registration
290 of the motor vehicle is cancelled or transferred and that the card is for
291 the exclusive use of the disabled veteran to whom it is issued, is not
292 transferable and will be revoked if presented by any other person or if
293 any privilege granted under this section is abused. If not so revoked, the
294 card shall be renewable every four years at the time of registration of
295 motor vehicles. No penalty shall be imposed for the overtime parking
296 of any motor vehicle bearing a number plate issued under this section
297 when it has been so parked by the disabled veteran to whom the plate
298 and an identification card were issued or by any person operating such
299 vehicle when accompanied by such disabled veteran, provided the
300 length of time for which such vehicle may remain parked at any one
301 location shall not exceed twenty-four hours. The surviving spouse of a
302 disabled veteran issued such special registration may retain any such
303 registration and number plates without charge for [his or her] such
304 surviving spouse's lifetime or until such time as [he or she] such
305 surviving spouse remarries.

306 Sec. 9. Subdivision (19) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is
307 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
308 *1, 2023, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*
309 *2023*):

310 (19) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
311 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
312 trust for, (A) any resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined in
313 section 27-103, [who was a member of the armed forces in service in time
314 of war,] (B) any resident of this state who was a citizen of the United
315 States at the time of [his] such resident's enlistment and who was in the
316 military or naval service of a government allied or associated with that
317 of the United States during the Second World War and received an
318 honorable discharge therefrom, (C) any resident of this state who served
319 during the Second World War as a member of any armed force of any
320 government signatory to the United Nations Declaration of January 1,
321 1942, and participated in armed conflict with an enemy of the United

322 States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten
323 years and presents satisfactory evidence of such service, (D) any
324 resident of this state who served as a member of the crew of a merchant
325 vessel during the Second World War and is qualified with respect to
326 such service as a member of the group known as the "American
327 Merchant Marine in ocean-going service during the period of armed
328 conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945", members of which are
329 deemed to be eligible for certain veterans benefits under a
330 determination in the United States Department of Defense, as recorded
331 in the Federal Register of February 1, 1988, provided such resident has
332 received an armed forces discharge certificate from the Department of
333 Defense on the basis of such service, (E) any member of the armed forces
334 who was in service in time of war and is still in the service and by reason
335 of continuous service has not as yet received a discharge, (F) any person
336 who is retired from the armed forces after thirty years of service because
337 [he] such person has reached the age limit prescribed by law or because
338 [he] such person suffers from mental or physical disability, or (G) any
339 person who is serving in the armed services in time of war; or lacking
340 said amount of property in [his] such person's own name, so much of
341 the property belonging to, or held in trust for, [his] such person's spouse,
342 who is domiciled with [him] such person, as is necessary to equal said
343 amount. For the purposes of this subdivision, "veteran", "armed forces"
344 and "service in time of war" have the same meanings as provided in
345 section 27-103;

346 Sec. 10. Section 27-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the
347 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

348 When requested by the commander of any accredited veteran
349 organization or by friends or relatives of any deceased person who has
350 served in any of the armed forces of the United States, [during time of
351 war, as defined in section 27-103, or] who has served in the National
352 Guard for more than twenty years or who has died while a member of
353 the National Guard, the Adjutant General shall order an honor guard
354 detail from the National Guard, the naval militia, the State Guard or the
355 organized militia to attend the funeral, except that if an honor guard

356 detail from such guard or militia is unavailable or committed elsewhere,
357 the Adjutant General shall request an honor guard detail from a bona
358 fide Connecticut state veterans' organization, provided such detail shall
359 comply with the rules and procedures set forth in Connecticut National
360 Guard regulation 37-106. Such detail shall consist of not more than five
361 members plus one bugler. The members thereof shall be compensated
362 at the rate of sixty dollars per day. Such compensation shall be paid from
363 funds appropriated to the Adjutant General for the pay of the National
364 Guard and from federal funds received for that purpose.

365 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 21-37 of the general statutes is
366 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
367 *1, 2023*):

368 (a) Any town may make reasonable ordinances with reference to the
369 vending or hawking upon its public streets or upon any state highway,
370 except limited access highways, within such town or any land abutting
371 such streets or highways of any goods, wares or other merchandise at
372 public or private sale or auction, or to the vending or peddling of such
373 articles from house to house within its limits, including the imposition
374 of a fee, not exceeding two hundred dollars a year, applicable with
375 respect to any person engaged in such vending, hawking or peddling,
376 for the privilege of so vending, hawking or peddling such merchandise.
377 Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section which requires a permit
378 may require that no such permit shall be issued to any person who has
379 not obtained a permit to engage in or transact business as a seller within
380 the state in accordance with section 12-409 and shall require that any
381 permit issued pursuant to such ordinance shall be conspicuously
382 displayed at the place the activities are undertaken. Such ordinances
383 may provide that the authority issuing such permit may waive the
384 permit fee for a nonprofit organization exempt from federal taxation by
385 Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
386 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time
387 to time amended, or a charitable organization. No town shall require a
388 permit fee from any resident of this state who has resided within the
389 state for a period of two years next preceding the date of application for

390 such permit, who is (1) a veteran, [who served in time of war,] as defined
 391 in section 27-103, (2) a hawker or peddler, and (3) a principal pursuant
 392 to section 21-36.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	5-224
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-415
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	27-125
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	27-140
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-254
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2023, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2023</i>	12-81(19)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	27-76
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	21-37(a)

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various State Agencies	Various - Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Loss	None	See Below

Explanation

The bill, which eliminates the eligibility requirement that a veteran have wartime service, is anticipated to have a minimal revenue loss across various state agencies beginning in FY 24. Any active-duty service member who has active service since 8/9/1990 (Persian Gulf War) is covered under current law; the bill expands eligibility for veterans who served prior to then and not during wartime. It is unknown how many additional veterans would apply for benefits under the expanded definition, but the revenue loss to various state agencies (including the higher education constituent units, Veteran's Affairs, and the Department of Motor Vehicles) is anticipated to be minimal.

The bill results in a potential grand list reduction to municipalities beginning in FY 25 by expanding eligibility for certain property tax exemptions to veterans with non-wartime service. A grand list reduction results in a revenue loss, given a constant mill rate.

Correspondingly, the bill results in a cost to the Office of Policy and Management beginning in FY 25 to reimburse municipalities for the revenue loss incurred by the bill via the Additional Veterans Property Tax grant program. These grants at least partially offset the revenue loss to municipalities resulting from veterans' property tax exemptions.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to additional eligible veteran benefits.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6004*****AN ACT ELIMINATING SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR AS AN ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS' BENEFITS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill eliminates, for certain state benefits, the eligibility requirement that a veteran have wartime service. In doing so, it extends these benefits to veterans who are otherwise eligible but did not serve during a statutorily defined period of war for the minimum amount of time currently required under the law (generally at least 90 days; see BACKGROUND).

The bill also makes technical and minor changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except the provision on property tax exemptions (§ 9) is applicable to assessment years starting on or after that date.

STATE VETERANS' BENEFITS

The bill extends certain financial, employment, and other benefits to eligible veterans who do not have qualifying wartime service (and, for benefits that accrue to them, their eligible spouses, certain surviving parents, and dependent children). These benefits include the following:

1. a property tax exemption of at least \$1,500 (plus additional amounts the municipality may, and in some cases must, provide to veterans who are eligible for this exemption) (§ 9);
2. tuition waivers for the state's public colleges and universities (§§ 1-3);
3. additional points on state and municipal civil service exams for

- initial appointments (§§ 4 & 5);
4. temporary financial assistance from the veterans affairs commissioner (§ 6);
 5. temporary aid from the Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund (§ 7);
 6. free motor vehicle registration for up to three vehicles and special license plates for veterans with certain disabilities (§ 8 & CGS § 14-49(o));
 7. funeral honor guards (§ 10); and
 8. exemption from any municipal fee for a hawker or peddler permit (§ 11).

BACKGROUND

Definition of Veteran

By law, a veteran is anyone who was honorably discharged, or released under honorable conditions, from active service in the United States armed forces. It also includes anyone released from active service with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on a qualifying condition. (A "qualifying condition" is a (1) post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury diagnosis by a licensed health care professional at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (2) military sexual trauma disclosed to such health care professional, or (3) determination by the Eligibility Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge characterization) (CGS § 27-103).)

Wartime Service

By law, to be eligible for state benefits that require service in a time of war, a veteran must have served at least 90 cumulative days during a statutorily specified period of war, as described in the table below. A veteran who served fewer days may be eligible if he or she (1) was

separated from service earlier because of either a service-connected U.S. Veterans’ Administration-rated disability or an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or (2) served for the duration of a period of war that lasted fewer than 90 days (CGS § 27-103(a)(3)).

The table below summarizes the dates and service conditions that constitute service during a period of war for purposes of state veterans’ benefits (CGS § 27-103(a)(4)). (An end date to the Persian Gulf War period has not been prescribed by presidential proclamation or by law. As a result, it is ongoing for purposes of determining veterans’ benefits.)

Table: Post-1940 “Periods of War”

Operation	Covered Period	Service Condition
World War II	12/7/41—12/31/46*	Active service during the covered period
Korean conflict	6/27/50—1/31/55	Active service during the covered period
Lebanon conflict	7/1/58—11/1/58 or 9/29/82—3/30/84	Combat or combat-support role in Lebanon during the covered periods
Vietnam era	2/28/61—7/1/75	Active service during the covered period
Grenada invasion	10/25/83—12/15/83	Combat or combat-support role in Grenada during the covered period
Operation Earnest Will (escort of Kuwaiti tankers flying U.S. flag in the Persian Gulf)	7/24/87—8/1/90	Combat or combat-support role in the operation during the covered period
Panama invasion	12/20/89—1/31/90	Combat or combat-support role in the invasion during the covered period
Persian Gulf War	8/2/90 until a date prescribed by the President or law	Active service during the covered period
Afghanistan	10/24/01—8/30/21	Active service during the covered period
Iraq	3/19/03—12/31/11 or 6/1/14—12/9/21	Active service during the covered period

*except, for certain property tax exemptions, the end date is considered 12/31/47 (CGS § 12-86)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/07/2023)