



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 160

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 238

Senate, March 28, 2024

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through SEN. MARX of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS FROM THE MILITARY RELIEF FUND.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 27-100a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2024*):

4 (c) The Military Department shall use the Military Relief Fund to
5 make grants to eligible members of the armed forces or their immediate
6 family members for essential personal or household goods or services
7 in this state if the payment for such goods or services would be a
8 hardship for such eligible member or immediate family member
9 because of (1) the military service of [the] such eligible member, or (2) a
10 serious injury or illness, or the death, of such eligible member or
11 immediate family member. The department shall not make any grant
12 that exceeds five thousand dollars or the balance available for grants in
13 the fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	27-100a(c)
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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 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Military Dept.	Military Relief Fund - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the eligibility for payments from the Military Relief Fund (MRF)¹ resulting in a potential revenue loss to the Fund to the extent additional payments are made. In FY 23 the MRF paid four grants totaling \$14,078 and the fund has a balance of over \$900,000².

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of payments made.

¹The MRF provides monetary grants to service members and their families that are experiencing a financial hardship as a result of military service. The Connecticut Military Department runs the program and Connecticut law caps payments at \$5,000 per grant.

²The MRF received an original appropriation in 2005 and since then has sustained a positive balance through gifts, grants, and donations of private citizens.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 238*****AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS FROM THE MILITARY RELIEF FUND.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands eligibility for Military Relief Fund grants. Under existing law, the Connecticut Military Department may provide grants to servicemembers and their immediate family members to pay expenses for essential personal or household goods or services if these expenses would be a hardship due to the servicemember's military service. Under the bill, the department may also provide grants if these expenses would be a hardship due to the servicemember's or immediate family member's serious injury, serious illness, or death.

The bill retains the current law's grant amount cap (up to \$5,000 or the balance of the fund that is available for grants) and also makes minor, clarifying changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2024)