



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 348**

LCO No. 1980



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

**AN ACT ELIMINATING SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR AS AN ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR CERTAIN STATE AND MUNICIPAL 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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  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, 2024*):

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 2024 supplement to the  
55 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
56 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

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

109 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the 2024 supplement to the  
110 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
111 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

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

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

161 Sec. 4. Section 5-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
162 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

187 subsection (d) of section 5-228 and such [person] veteran is not  
188 otherwise eligible to receive additional points pursuant to this section.  
189 Any person who is a member of the armed forces, as defined in section  
190 27-103, and who is in the final year of an enlistment contract with any  
191 branch of the armed forces shall have five points added to [his or her]  
192 such person's earned rating if such person has attained at least the  
193 minimum earned rating on any such examination held for an original  
194 appointment for the purpose of establishing a candidate list to fill a  
195 vacancy in accordance with subsection (d) of section 5-228. Names of  
196 any such persons shall be placed upon the candidate lists in the order of  
197 such augmented ratings. Credits shall be based upon examinations with  
198 a possible rating of one hundred points.

199       Sec. 5. Section 7-415 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
200 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

217       Sec. 6. Section 27-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
218 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

238 Sec. 7. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
239 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

253 spouses who are living with them, (3) to their widows or widowers who  
254 were living with them at the time of death, or (4) to dependent children  
255 under eighteen years of age, who may be in need of [the same] such  
256 temporary income, subsistence items, medical or surgical aid or care or  
257 relief. All such payments shall be made by the American Legion under  
258 authority of its bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the procedure for  
259 proof of eligibility for such aid, provided payments made for the care  
260 and treatment of any person entitled to the benefits provided for  
261 [herein] in this section, at any hospital receiving aid from the General  
262 Assembly unless special care and treatment are required, shall be in  
263 accordance with the provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the  
264 sum expended for the care or treatment of such person at any other place  
265 than a state-aided hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost of  
266 supporting such person at the Healthcare Center in Rocky Hill  
267 maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, unless special care  
268 and treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by  
269 the treasurer of such organization may be paid [therefor] for such care  
270 and treatment. Upon the completion of the trust provided for in section  
271 27-138, the principal fund shall revert to the State Treasury.

272       Sec. 8. Section 14-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
273 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

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

307       Sec. 9. Subdivision (19) of section 12-81 of the 2024 supplement to the  
308 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
309 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years*  
310 *commencing on or after October 1, 2024*):

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

321 government signatory to the United Nations Declaration of January 1,  
322 1942, and participated in armed conflict with an enemy of the United  
323 States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten  
324 years and presents satisfactory evidence of such service, (D) any  
325 resident of this state who served as a member of the crew of a merchant  
326 vessel during the Second World War and is qualified with respect to  
327 such service as a member of the group known as the "American  
328 Merchant Marine in ocean-going service during the period of armed  
329 conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945", members of which are  
330 deemed to be eligible for certain veterans benefits under a  
331 determination in the United States Department of Defense, as recorded  
332 in the Federal Register of February 1, 1988, provided such resident has  
333 received an armed forces discharge certificate from the Department of  
334 Defense on the basis of such service, (E) any member of the armed forces  
335 who was in service in time of war and is still in the service and by reason  
336 of continuous service has not as yet received a discharge, (F) any person  
337 who is retired from the armed forces after thirty years of service because  
338 [he] such person has reached the age limit prescribed by law or because  
339 [he] such person suffers from mental or physical disability, or (G) any  
340 person who is serving in the armed services in time of war; or lacking  
341 said amount of property in [his] such person's own name, so much of  
342 the property belonging to, or held in trust for, [his] such person's spouse,  
343 who is domiciled with [him] such person, as is necessary to equal said  
344 amount. For the purposes of this subdivision, "veteran", "armed forces"  
345 and "service in time of war" have the same meanings as provided in  
346 section 27-103;

347 Sec. 10. Section 27-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
348 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

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

366       Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 21-37 of the general statutes is  
367 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
368 *1, 2024*):

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

389 permit fee from any resident of this state who has resided within the  
 390 state for a period of two years next preceding the date of application for  
 391 such permit, who is (1) a veteran, [who served in time of war,] as defined  
 392 in section 27-103, (2) a hawker or peddler, and (3) a principal pursuant  
 393 to section 21-36.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	5-224
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	7-415
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	27-125
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	27-140
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-254
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-81(19)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	27-76
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	21-37(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To eliminate service in time of war as an eligibility criterion for certain state and municipal veterans' benefits.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*