
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5404

AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AND THE DRIVER'S LICENSE ENDORSEMENT TO OPERATE FIRE APPARATUS.

SUMMARY

This bill allows veterans and members of the armed forces or National Guard (“members”) to apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a waiver of the skills-based demonstration that current law requires of someone applying for a Q-endorsement. (This license endorsement authorizes holders to operate a fire apparatus (i.e., drive a fire truck).) To qualify under the bill, a member must:

1. be either a current member of the armed forces or National Guard or a veteran who was discharged no more than two years ago;
2. currently hold, or have held two years or less before being discharged, a military license to operate a vehicle that is the equivalent of a Class 6 through Class 13 vehicle under the Federal Highway Administration classification system (vehicles in these classes have at least six axles); and
3. apply for the skills-based demonstration waiver with the DMV, following a process the commissioner must set.

Under current law, individuals must have been trained to drive a firetruck according to Commission on Fire Prevention and Control standards and take the driving test on a representative vehicle. The bill waives the driving test but appears to keep the training requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

By law, a veteran is anyone honorably discharged from or released

under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (i.e., the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103, as amended by PA 23-71).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2024)