
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5787

AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO JOIN A CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART AND RECEIVE A NUMBER PLATE RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART.

SUMMARY

This bill allows veterans and members of the armed forces who get a license plate recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart on or after July 1, 2025, to apply to the veterans affairs commissioner for reimbursement of the cost of joining a chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in order to get the license plate.

The bill (1) authorizes the commissioner to determine the application process for reimbursement and (2) requires him to notify the veteran or member of a decision within 60 days of receipt of the application and, if approved, reimburse the veteran or member.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Definition of Armed Forces

“Armed forces” means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, and any reserve component of them, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under federal law (CGS § 27-103).

Definition of Veteran

Under state law, a veteran is anyone who was honorably discharged, or released under honorable conditions, from active service in the United States armed forces. This also includes anyone who was 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 a health care professional; or (3) determination by the Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (CGS § 27-103).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (02/18/2025)