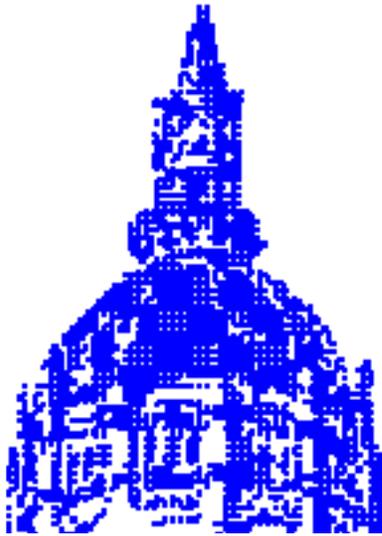


2000
ACTS AFFECTING

VETERANS

Office of Legislative Research



Prepared for members of the

Connecticut General Assembly

by
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NOTICE TO READERS

This report provides brief highlights of the 2000 public acts affecting veterans. Not all provisions of the acts are included and not all the acts listed have been signed by the governor. Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library or the House Clerk's office. *Highlights of the Revised FY 01 Budget* is available from the Office of Fiscal Analysis. Complete summaries of all public acts passed during the 2000 session will be available in early fall when OLR's Public Act Summary book is published, and some are now available on the OLR website.

TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO UTILITY LAWS

This act broadens the types of veterans' organizations eligible for reduced rate electric service. It does this by making any veterans' organization that is tax exempt under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, rather than just subdivision 19 of that section, eligible for these benefits. (It appears that this would entitle the Disabled American Veterans, among other groups, to this benefit.) **(PA 00-53, effective October 1, 2000)**

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

This act allows boards of education to award high school diplomas to World War II veterans who did not receive them because they left high school for military service. **(PA 00-124, effective May 29, 2000)**

WARTIME SERVICE BENEFITS

This act adds to the definition of "wartime service" active duty or support service in (1) South Korea's demilitarized zone after February 1, 1955; (2) Somalia after December 2, 1992; and (3) Bosnia after December 20, 1995. By law, wartime veterans and in some cases their spouses and children, are eligible for a range

of benefits unavailable to other veterans.

The act also extends benefits from the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund to veterans of more wars by adopting the general definition of wartime service used to determine eligibility for wartime service benefits. It makes the law conform to practice by requiring that eligible veterans have at least 90 days service, unless they were separated earlier by a service-connected disability or the war or conflict ended earlier. **(PA 00-131, effective October 1, 2000)**

COMMEMORATIVE NAMING OF CERTAIN HIGHWAYS

The act directs the memorial or commemorative naming of the following one state highway bridge and four highway segments:

1. State Bridge #6130A on I-95 in Waterford as the "African American War Veterans Bridge";
2. Route 167 in Avon running north from Harris Road to the Simsbury-Avon town line as the "First Company Governor's Horse Guards Memorial Highway";
3. Route 94 running easterly from Route 2 to the Glastonbury-Hebron town

line as the “94th Infantry Division Memorial Highway”;

4. I-91 running northerly from the New Haven-North Haven town line to the North Haven-Wallingford town line as the “Century Division Memorial Highway”; and
5. I-91 in Wallingford running northerly from the North Haven-Wallingford town line to the Wallingford-Meriden town line as the “All Airborne Memorial Highway.”

(PA 00-148, effective upon passage)

FIRING SQUADS AT VETERANS FUNERALS

This act increases, from \$30 to \$50, the daily pay for each member of a firing squad at a veteran’s funeral. Under prior law, the rate was 75% of one day’s basic pay, but it could not be less than \$15 or more than \$30. In practice, it was \$30. **(PA 00-163, effective July 1, 2000)**

COMMEMORATIVE NAMING OF HIGHWAYS

This act designates the segment of Route 17 in Middletown running northerly from South Main Street to the Route 9 North junction as the

Catholic War Veterans Memorial Bridge. **(PA 00-184, effective October 1, 2000)**

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

This act requires municipalities to increase veterans’ property tax exemptions after revaluation in proportion to increases in their net taxable grand lists instead of in proportion to increases in their total grand lists. It thus precludes big increases in the exemptions attributable solely to the addition of a large tax-exempt property to a town’s grand list. **(PA 00-229, effective upon passage and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 1998)**