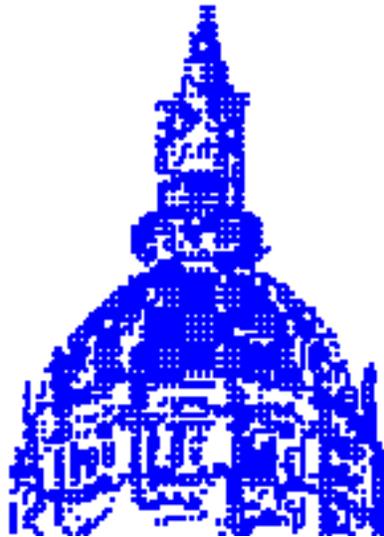


2001
ACTS AFFECTING

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 summaries of the 2001 public acts affecting veterans. Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library or the House Clerk's office. Complete summaries of all public acts passed during the 2001 session will be available in early fall when OLR's Public Act Summary book is published.

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You asked for summaries of acts affecting veterans.

**PA 01-58—AN ACT
CONCERNING THE MEETING
SCHEDULE OF THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS'
AFFAIRS**

This act requires the veterans' affairs board of trustees to meet, at a minimum, quarterly, instead of monthly, thus potentially reducing the frequency of its meetings.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**PA 01-105—AN ACT REVISING
CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION
LAWS**

This act names 13 state highway segments and seven state highway bridges, including the following:

1. Route 20 in East Granby running east from the Granby town line to the junction of SSR 401 as the Connecticut Air National Guard Memorial Highway,
2. Route 10 in Simsbury running north from the intersection of Route 167 to the Granby town line as the Simsbury Veterans Memorial Highway, Route 5 in Wallingford as the "American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post 73 Memorial Highway,
3. Route 207 in Franklin running east as the Paul Bienvenue Memorial Highway,

4. Route 624 in Waterford and New London running east from I-95 eastbound to Route 1 eastbound as the American Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial Highway,
5. Route 302 in Newtown running east from the Danbury town line to Route 25 as the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard Memorial Highway,
6. I-91 running north from the intersection with I-95 to the North Haven-New Haven town line as the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard Memorial Highway,
7. Bridge No. 1460 on I-91 running north in Wethersfield over Wethersfield Cove as the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Highway, and Bridge No. 3162 on West Street in Rocky Hill running east and passing over I-91 as the John L. Levitow Memorial Bridge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**PA 01-127—AN ACT
CONCERNING THE PROBATE
STATUTES**

This act permits a probate court to notify the Veterans Affairs' Department or the Veterans' Home and Hospital of conservator application hearings by regular, rather than certified, mail.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**PA 01-173—AN ACT
CONCERNING REVISIONS TO
THE EDUCATION STATUTES**

This act requires the State Department of Education to apply to participate in and get funding under the federal government's Troops to Teachers Program. The program is designed to help former military personnel become teachers. Upon receiving funding, the department must establish a program in conformance with federal requirements and encourage participation in it.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

**PA 01-191—AN ACT
CONCERNING REGISTRATION
STICKERS ON MOTOR
VEHICLES AND CONCERNING
SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES
AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS
FOR DISABLED VETERANS
WHO HAVE TRAUMATIC BRAIN
INJURY**

This act extends special parking privileges to disabled veterans who served in time of war and sustained service-connected traumatic brain injury certified by the Veteran's Administration (VA). Previously, these privileges were available only if the VA certified a veteran was blind, paraplegic, hemiplegic, or had lost the use of, or had all or part of one or both arms or legs amputated as a result of his war service. This special privilege allows such disabled veterans to park overtime without penalty as long as they do not leave their vehicle at any one location for more than 24 hours. An eligible veteran receives special license plates and an identification card that a surviving spouse may

keep until death or remarriage.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**PA 01-196—AN ACT
CONCERNING EXECUTION
UPON FUNDS IN BANK
ACCOUNTS WHICH ARE
EXEMPT FROM EXECUTION**

By law, a creditor may obtain a court-ordered judgment against someone who owes him money (the debtor). The creditor may execute or serve an order on any bank where the debtor has an account. Unless the debtor claims that money in the account is exempt from execution, the bank must release the amounts owed to the creditor.

This new law requires banks served with these orders to (1) leave \$800 in the debtor's account (or the entire account balance, if it is less than \$800) if it recently received "readily identifiable" exempt Social Security or federal veterans' benefits by electronic direct deposit and (2) give the debtor access to that money. Banks can depart from this requirement if directed by any other law or by court order, and creditors can obtain court hearings if they reasonably believe that nonexempt funds have been withheld.
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002

**PA 01-06, JSS—AN ACT
CONCERNING VARIOUS TAXES
AND OTHER PROVISIONS
RELATED TO REVENUES OF
THE STATE**

This act creates a uniform procedure for people and businesses (i.e., claimants) to appeal decisions by the Office of Policy and Management secretary affecting

their eligibility for benefits under several state-reimbursed property tax exemption and relief programs, including programs extending tax credits and rebates to veterans.

The act requires the secretary to review each application for benefits under the Additional Veterans' Exemption Program and allows claimants to appeal directly to him when his decision affects their exemptions. Under prior law, they could appeal an assessor's decision affecting their applications to the secretary but not a decision the secretary made after auditing the town's claim for reimbursement.

Claimants can still appeal the assessor's decision to the town's board of assessment appeals. Prior law gave them the option of appealing the assessor's decision after he completed the grand list or appealing to the board in February. Under the act, claimants can appeal to the secretary after he acts on a town's claim for reimbursement in July.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

VR:eh