



House of Representatives

File No. 820

General Assembly

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House Bill No. 6442
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 2, 2025

**AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS MEASURES RECOGNIZING AND
HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF VETERANS AND MEMBERS
OF THE ARMED FORCES IN CONNECTICUT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes is
2 amended by adding subdivision (118) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (118) The Governor shall proclaim the month of November of
4 each year to be Veterans' Month in recognition of the service and
5 sacrifice of individuals who have served in the armed forces to protect
6 the United States and the state of Connecticut. Suitable exercises may be
7 held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for
8 the observance of the month.

9 Sec. 2. Section 14-20b of the general statutes is repealed and the
10 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

11 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any

12 veteran or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such
13 veteran or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for
14 a period of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special
15 certificate of registration and a set of number plates commemorating
16 such veteran's or member's military service for each such motor vehicle,
17 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates
18 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any
19 such veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of
20 such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as
21 a trade or business.

22 (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any woman
23 veteran or woman member of the armed forces, shall register any motor
24 vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least one year by such person
25 and shall issue a special certificate of registration and a set of number
26 plates commemorating such woman veteran's or woman member's
27 military service for each such motor vehicle, including a special
28 certificate of registration and a set of number plates for any motor
29 vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any such woman
30 veteran or woman member of the armed forces who is engaged in
31 agricultural production as a trade or business.

32 (3) The plates provided for under this subsection shall expire and be
33 renewed as provided in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a
34 fee for such plates, which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such
35 plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor
36 vehicle. The commissioner shall charge a fee of fifteen dollars to replace
37 such plates that become mutilated or illegible. Any such member of the
38 armed forces who is dishonorably discharged shall return such plates to
39 the commissioner not later than thirty days after such discharge. The
40 commissioner shall not renew such plates for any motor vehicle owned
41 or leased by any such member of the armed forces who is dishonorably
42 discharged.

43 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any
44 person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units,

45 which units served in the United States secret war in the Kingdom of
46 Laos during the Vietnam War, or any person who is an eligible former
47 reservist, or the surviving spouse of any such person, and after
48 verification from the Department of Veterans Affairs as provided under
49 subdivision (2) or (3) [, as applicable,] of this subsection, as applicable,
50 shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least
51 one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of
52 registration and a set of number plates commemorating such person's
53 military service for each such motor vehicle, including a special
54 certificate of registration and a set of number plates for any motor
55 vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any such person, or
56 the surviving spouse of such person, who is engaged in agricultural
57 production as a trade or business. The plates shall expire and be
58 renewed as provided in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a
59 fee for such plates, which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such
60 plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor
61 vehicle.

62 (2) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special
63 guerilla units, or the surviving spouse of such person, may submit a
64 request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran,
65 based on such person's service during the Vietnam War, for the purpose
66 of obtaining a special certificate of registration and a set of number
67 plates under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Such person, or the
68 surviving spouse of such person, shall provide to said department (A)
69 an affidavit stating (i) when such person served, (ii) where such person
70 served, (iii) the unit in which such person served, and (iv) the capacity
71 in which such person served; (B) any available corroborating witness
72 affidavits; (C) any available official documentation of service; and (D)
73 any other documents supporting such person's or such surviving
74 spouse's affidavit. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after
75 receipt of such request, verify whether such person was a member of the
76 Hmong Laotian special guerilla units and, if so verified, notify the
77 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and verification.

78 (3) (A) Any person who is an eligible former reservist, or the

79 surviving spouse of such person, may submit a request to the
80 Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran, based on such
81 person's service in a reserve component of the armed forces, for the
82 purpose of obtaining a special certificate of registration and a set of
83 number plates under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Such person, or
84 the surviving spouse of such person, shall provide to said department
85 all available official documentation of such service. Said department
86 shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such request, verify such
87 person's service and, if so verified, notify the Commissioner of Motor
88 Vehicles of such request and verification.

89 (B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
90 subsection or subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, neither the issuance
91 of such registration and number plates to a person by the Commissioner
92 of Motor Vehicles nor the listing of such person as a veteran by the
93 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall constitute proof of such person's
94 eligibility for any other benefit available to veterans.

95 (c) As used in this section, "eligible former reservist" means any
96 person honorably discharged from, released under honorable
97 conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge
98 based on a qualifying condition from, the United States Army Reserve,
99 Army National Guard, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast
100 Guard Reserve, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard; and "veteran",
101 "armed forces" and "qualifying condition" have the same meanings as
102 provided in section 27-103.

103 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) On and after January 1,
104 2026, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue commemorative
105 number plates in recognition of the primarily Puerto Rican members of
106 the Sixty-Fifth Infantry Regiment of the United States Army who served
107 with distinction and were known as "The Borinqueneers". The design of
108 the number plates shall be determined by the Commissioner of Motor
109 Vehicles in consultation with Hispanic-American Veterans of
110 Connecticut, Inc. No use shall be made of such plates, except as official
111 registration marker plates.

112 (b) A fee of sixty dollars shall be charged for "The Borinqueneers"
113 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees
114 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of such
115 fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of
116 Motor Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing
117 and replacing such number plates, and forty-five dollars of such fee
118 shall be deposited in an account to be used by Hispanic-American
119 Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
120 section. No additional fee shall be charged in connection with the
121 renewal of such number plates. No transfer fee shall be charged for the
122 transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration with "The
123 Borinqueneers" commemorative number plates. Such number plates
124 shall have letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor
125 Vehicles. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher
126 fee for number plates: (1) Which contain the numbers and letters from a
127 previously issued number plate; (2) which contain letters in place of
128 numbers, as authorized by section 14-49 of the general statutes, in
129 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section;
130 and (3) which are low number plates, issued in accordance with section
131 14-160 of the general statutes, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed
132 for registration under said section. All fees established and collected
133 pursuant to this section, except the amount deposited in the account
134 controlled by the Department of Motor Vehicles, shall be deposited in
135 the "Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut" commemorative
136 account, established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The
137 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance
138 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish
139 standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of
140 "The Borinqueneers" commemorative number plates.

141 (c) There is established the "Hispanic-American Veterans of
142 Connecticut" commemorative account which shall be a separate,
143 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain
144 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The funds
145 in said account shall be used by Hispanic-American Veterans of

146 Connecticut, Inc. to provide bilingual services and assistance to
147 Connecticut veterans and members of the armed forces. Hispanic-
148 American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. may receive private donations
149 to said account and any such donations shall be deposited in said
150 account.

151 (d) The funds in the account shall be distributed quarterly by the
152 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to Hispanic-American
153 Veterans of Connecticut, Inc.

154 Sec. 4. Section 14-19a of the general statutes is repealed and the
155 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

156 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations in
157 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish (1) standards
158 for the issuance of a special certificate of registration and special number
159 plates to a member of an organization which qualifies for issuance, (2)
160 qualifications of organizations whose members wish to apply for such
161 special registrations, (3) procedures for application for such special
162 registration, and (4) a fee for such special number plates which shall
163 cover at least the entire cost of making the plates and which shall be in
164 addition to the fee for registration of the motor vehicle. The regulations
165 shall provide that a labor union shall be a qualifying organization.

166 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Board
167 of Regents for Higher Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
168 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards for the issuance
169 and renewal of collegiate special number plates with the logos or
170 emblems of Connecticut public and independent institutions of higher
171 education.

172 (c) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special
173 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance with
174 the regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section provided
175 the commissioner may not issue a set of special number plates bearing
176 the same numerals as any other plate issued by the department. The
177 commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any such special number

178 plates issued for a qualified organization, or special plates issued in
179 accordance with the provisions of sections 14-19b and 14-21f to 14-21p,
180 inclusive, at any time, upon written notice to the organization if, in the
181 opinion of the commissioner, the demand for such plates is insufficient
182 to support the costs of production.

183 (d) Any veteran or member of the armed forces, as those terms are
184 defined in section 27-103, who is issued, on or after July 1, 2025, a
185 number plate recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart
186 pursuant to any regulation adopted under subsection (a) of this section,
187 and who paid a charge to join as a member of a chapter of the Military
188 Order of the Purple Heart in order to obtain such number plate, may
189 apply to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, in a form and a manner
190 prescribed by said commissioner, for reimbursement of such
191 membership charge from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Not later
192 than sixty days after receipt of any such application, said commissioner
193 shall notify such veteran or member of the armed forces of a decision on
194 such application and, if approved, provide such reimbursement.

195 Sec. 5. Section 14-11k of the general statutes is repealed and the
196 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

197 (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means a veteran, as defined in
198 section 14-36h, who has verification from the Department of Veteran
199 Affairs that such person or member is a veteran.

200 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-1h,
201 subsection (a) of section 14-41 and subsection (a) of section 14-50a
202 concerning fees, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles [may] shall waive
203 the fee for a motor vehicle operator's license or an identity card renewal
204 or duplication for any applicant who is a veteran while attending a one-
205 day event that offers services, supplies or assistance to veterans and is
206 hosted by the Department of Veteran Affairs. For any such renewal
207 application made earlier than six months prior to the date on which an
208 applicant's motor vehicle operator's license or identity card expires, the
209 commissioner shall issue to such applicant a voucher entitling such

210 applicant to renewal of such applicant's motor vehicle operator's license
211 or identity card, free of charge, during such six-month period.

212 Sec. 6. Section 27-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
213 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

214 (a) The Adjutant General shall make such returns and reports to such
215 officers as may be prescribed by the United States Department of
216 Defense in regulations pertaining to the National Guard, at such times
217 and in such form as prescribed. The Adjutant General shall (1) keep the
218 service records of all officers and enlisted personnel, (2) issue authorized
219 service medals, ribbons and documents, including under subsection (h)
220 of this section and part VII of this chapter, (3) (A) generate and maintain
221 all records and documents required by state law or regulations
222 thereunder, and (B) process requests for such records pursuant to the
223 state Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, and (4)
224 (A) generate and maintain all records and documents required by
225 federal law or regulations thereunder, and (B) process requests for such
226 records pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act of 1976, 5
227 USC 552, as amended from time to time.

228 (b) The Adjutant General is charged, in all matters pertaining to the
229 command, discipline, employment and administration of the armed
230 forces of the state, with the duty of: (1) Recording, authenticating and
231 communicating to members of the armed forces of the state all orders,
232 instructions and regulations issued by order of (A) the Governor or the
233 Adjutant General as the designee of the Governor, for the armed forces
234 of the state, and (B) the Secretary of Defense for the National Guard; (2)
235 preparing and distributing commissions; (3) compiling and issuing the
236 registers of the armed forces of the state; (4) conducting internal audits
237 and investigations; (5) organizing and coordinating the participation of
238 the armed forces of the state in military and civic ceremonies; (6)
239 organizing and coordinating inaugurals; and (7) managing the
240 recruiting for the armed forces of the state.

241 (c) In event of emergency use of the armed forces of the state and with

242 the approval of the Governor, the Adjutant General may serve as the
243 disbursing officer of all funds appropriated by the General Assembly
244 for the expense of the office of the Adjutant General.

245 (d) The Adjutant General may adopt regulations pertaining to the
246 preparation and rendering of reports and returns, the care and
247 preservation of military property and the administration of military
248 personnel as in the Adjutant General's opinion the conditions demand,
249 such regulations to be operative and in force when promulgated in the
250 form of general orders, circulars or circular letters.

251 (e) The Adjutant General shall have charge and care of all state
252 military property and all United States military property issued to the
253 state, and shall keep an accurate and careful account of all receipts and
254 issues of the same. The Adjutant General shall keep a record of all public
255 property in the state in the possession of the armed forces of the state
256 and shall guard such property against injury and loss to the greatest
257 extent possible. The Adjutant General shall conduct annual inspections
258 of all public property and keep a complete inventory of such property
259 and the places where it is deposited. The Adjutant General shall require
260 each accountable and responsible officer of the armed forces of the state
261 to account for any deficiency in public property in such officer's
262 possession upon discovery of such deficiency. The Adjutant General
263 shall require each unit of the armed forces of the state to be inspected at
264 least once each calendar year. The Adjutant General shall, annually, as
265 provided in section 4-60, make a report to the Governor of the strength,
266 condition and equipment of the armed forces of the state and of the
267 expenditures of the office since the last annual report.

268 (f) The Adjutant General may adopt a seal for use in the office of the
269 Adjutant General. The Adjutant General may delegate duties to an
270 Assistant Adjutant General or to Military Department officials as the
271 Adjutant General deems necessary for the efficient operation of said
272 department.

273 (g) The Adjutant General may enter into contracts or agreements with

274 any person or agency, public or private, for goods, services or property
275 necessary for execution of the duties of the Adjutant General's office and
276 the operation of the Military Department, including the performance of
277 federal construction contracting on state property, subject to the
278 approval of the Attorney General.

279 (h) The Adjutant General may, within available appropriations, (1)
280 establish awards or ribbons for issuance to members of the armed forces
281 of the state, and (2) remove any such awards or ribbons as have been so
282 established on or after July 1, 2025. Nothing in this subsection shall be
283 construed to allow the Adjutant General to remove any state military
284 award, ribbon or other honor or decoration established by the Adjutant
285 General prior to July 1, 2025, or by the General Assembly, including
286 under part VII of this chapter.

287 Sec. 7. Subparagraph (E) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of
288 section 10-76d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
289 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

290 (E) (i) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect
291 at the beginning of each school year an educational program for each
292 child or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education,
293 and shall provide [(i)] (I) the informational handout described in section
294 10-74v to each child with an individualized education program or plan
295 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and [(ii)] (II)
296 the Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the
297 Department of Education and the rights and resources available to such
298 child in the provision of special education and related services.

299 (ii) If, after the start of a school year, a child of a member of the armed
300 forces, as defined in section 27-103, enrolls in a school under the
301 jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education, as a result of such
302 member having received military orders directing such member to the
303 state or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the
304 transfer of such member to the state, and such child enrolls with an
305 individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the

306 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 from such child's prior school, such board
307 shall take necessary steps, including, but not limited to, the transfer of
308 any records and prior evaluations, the performance of any reevaluations
309 and, not later than thirty school days after such child's enrollment, the
310 holding of any planning and placement team meeting or meeting to
311 establish a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
312 for such child, to ensure a minimally disruptive transition to the
313 provision of comparable services.

314 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-186 of the general statutes is
315 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
316 *2025*):

317 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by
318 transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child
319 five years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age who is not
320 a graduate of a high school or technical education and career school may
321 attend public school, except as provided in section 10-233c and
322 subsection (d) of section 10-233d. For purposes of establishing the
323 residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in
324 section 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a school under the
325 jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education for a town in which
326 such child is not yet a resident, such board shall accept the military
327 orders directing such member to the state or any other documents from
328 the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to the state as
329 proof of residency. If a child of a member of the armed forces is enrolled
330 in a school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of
331 education for a town, and such member has received military orders
332 directing such member from such town or any other documents from
333 the armed forces indicating a change of residency from such town
334 during the school year, such child may continue to be enrolled in such
335 school until the end of the school year while such member remains a
336 member of the armed forces, except that any such child in grade eleven
337 may continue to be enrolled in such school for an additional school year
338 while such member remains a member of the armed forces. Any board
339 of education which denies school accommodations, including a denial

340 based on an issue of residency, to any such child shall inform the parent
341 or guardian of such child or the child, in the case of an emancipated
342 minor, a pupil eighteen years of age or older or an unaccompanied
343 youth, as described in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, of
344 his or her right to request a hearing by the board of education in
345 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
346 this section. A board of education which has denied school
347 accommodations shall advise the board of education under whose
348 jurisdiction it claims such child should be attending school of the denial.
349 For purposes of this section, (1) a "parent or guardian" shall include a
350 surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section 10-94g, and (2) a child
351 residing in a dwelling located in more than one town in this state shall
352 be considered a resident of each town in which the dwelling is located
353 and may attend school in any one of such towns. For purposes of this
354 subsection, "dwelling" means a single, two or three-family house or a
355 condominium unit.

356 Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
357 shall conduct an evaluation of the provision of dental services to
358 veterans in the state and identify areas for improvement in such
359 provision, including, but not limited to, opportunities to expand veteran
360 access to such dental services and increase enrollment in the dental
361 insurance program administered by the United States Department of
362 Veterans Affairs. Not later than February 1, 2026, the commissioner shall
363 prepare and submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
364 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
365 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
366 and military affairs with the findings of such evaluation and any
367 recommendations for legislation. As used in this section, "veteran" has
368 the same meaning as provided in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

369 Sec. 10. Section 19a-533 of the general statutes is repealed and the
370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

371 (a) As used in this section: [(1) "nursing home"]

372 (1) "Nursing home" means any chronic and convalescent facility or
373 any rest home with nursing supervision, as defined in section 19a-521,
374 which has a provider agreement with the state to provide services to
375 recipients of funds obtained through Title XIX of the Social Security
376 Amendments of 1965; [and (2) "indigent person"]

377 (2) "Indigent person" means any person who is eligible for or who is
378 receiving medical assistance benefits from the state;

379 (3) "Federally contracted veterans nursing home" means a nursing
380 home that has a contract with the United States Department of Veterans
381 Affairs to provide care for veterans; and

382 (4) "Service-connected veteran" means a veteran who meets the
383 United States Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected
384 eligibility criteria and all applicable United States Department of
385 Veterans Affairs eligibility requirements.

386 (b) A nursing home which receives payment from the state for
387 rendering care to indigent persons:

388 (1) Shall be prohibited from discriminating against indigent persons
389 who apply for admission to such facility on the basis of source of
390 payment. Except as otherwise provided by law, all applicants for
391 admission to such facility shall be admitted in the order in which such
392 applicants apply for admission as evidenced by the nursing home's
393 acceptance of a substantially completed application for admission. Each
394 nursing home shall (A) provide a receipt to each applicant who
395 substantially completes an application for admission to its facility who
396 requests placement on a waiting list stating the date and time of such
397 substantial completion and acceptance of the application by the nursing
398 home, and (B) maintain a dated list of such applications which shall be
399 available at all times to any applicant, the applicant's bona fide
400 representative, authorized personnel from the Departments of Public
401 Health and Social Services and such other state agencies or other bodies
402 established by state statute whose statutory duties necessitate access to
403 such lists. A nursing home may maintain such waiting list in electronic

404 form. On and after July 1, 2025, a nursing home shall maintain such
405 waiting list in electronic form;

406 (2) Shall provide applications for admission to prospective residents
407 by mail, electronic transmission or Internet web site posting;

408 (3) Shall develop and implement policies and procedures related to
409 the waiting list that address (A) what information is required for such
410 application to be considered substantially completed and accepted by
411 the nursing home, (B) what steps the nursing home will take to protect
412 the privacy of information submitted by a prospective resident, and (C)
413 a description of how the integrity of information in the electronic
414 waiting list will be maintained, including steps taken to ensure accuracy
415 in recording of the (i) date and time a prospective resident is placed on
416 the waiting list, and (ii) any dated notification made pursuant to
417 subsection (c) of this section. A nursing home shall not be required to
418 maintain a list of inquiries from prospective residents who have not yet
419 submitted a substantially completed application for admission accepted
420 by the nursing home, nor to provide any such person with a receipt of
421 their inquiry;

422 (4) May, no sooner than ninety days after initial placement of the
423 person's name on the waiting list, inquire by letter or electronic mail of
424 such applicant and any one person if designated by such applicant
425 whether the applicant desires continuation of the applicant's name on
426 the waiting list. If the applicant does not respond and an additional
427 thirty days pass, the nursing home may remove such applicant's name
428 from its waiting list. A nursing home may annually send a waiting list
429 placement continuation communication by letter or electronic mail to all
430 persons on the waiting list for at least ninety days to inquire as to
431 whether such person desires continuation of the person's name on the
432 waiting list, provided such communication shall also be sent to any one
433 person if designated by such applicant. If such person does not respond
434 and at least thirty days pass, the facility may remove the person's name
435 from its waiting list. Indigent persons shall be placed on any waiting list
436 for admission to a facility and shall be admitted to the facility as

437 vacancies become available, in the same manner as self-pay applicants,
438 except as provided in subsections (f) and (g) of this section;

439 (5) Shall post in a conspicuous place a notice informing applicants for
440 admission that the facility is prohibited by statute from discriminating
441 against indigent applicants for admission on the basis of source of
442 payment. Such notice shall advise applicants for admission of the
443 remedies available under this section and shall list the name, address
444 and telephone number of the ombudsman who serves the region in
445 which the facility is located;

446 (6) Shall be prohibited from requiring that an indigent person pay
447 any sum of money or furnish any other consideration, including but not
448 limited to, the furnishing of an agreement by the relative, conservator
449 or other responsible party of an indigent person which obligates such
450 party to pay for care rendered to an indigent person as a condition for
451 admission of such indigent person; and

452 (7) Shall maintain an electronic record of the number of patients who
453 are Medicare, Medicaid and private pay patients and make such
454 information available, upon request, to the state or regional
455 ombudsman.

456 (c) Whenever a nursing home passes over the name of an applicant
457 on its waiting list and admits another applicant, the nursing home shall
458 make a dated notation on the waiting list indicating why the applicant
459 who was passed over was not admitted. Upon the receipt of a complaint
460 concerning a violation of this section, the Department of Social Services
461 shall conduct an investigation into such complaint. A nursing home
462 shall provide access to the department and the State Ombudsman to all
463 records requested by the department or State Ombudsman for the
464 purpose of investigating a complaint by or on behalf of an applicant
465 related to the denial of an admission.

466 (d) The Department of Social Services is authorized to decrease the
467 daily reimbursement rate to a nursing home for one year for a violation
468 of this section which occurred during the twelve-month period covered

469 by the cost report upon which the per diem rate is calculated. The per
470 diem rate shall be reduced by one-quarter of one per cent for an initial
471 violation of this section and one per cent for each additional violation.

472 (e) Prior to imposing any sanction, the Department of Social Services
473 shall notify the nursing home of the alleged violation and the
474 accompanying sanction, and shall permit such facility to request an
475 administrative hearing, in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-181a,
476 inclusive. A facility shall request such hearing within fifteen days of
477 receipt of the notice of violation from the Department of Social Services.
478 The department shall stay the imposition of any sanction pending the
479 outcome of the administrative hearing.

480 (f) A nursing home with a number of self-pay residents equal to or
481 less than thirty per cent of its total number of residents shall not be
482 required to admit an indigent person on a waiting list for admission
483 when a vacancy becomes available during the subsequent six months,
484 provided (1) no bed may be held open for more than thirty days, and (2)
485 the nursing home notifies the Commissioner of Social Services and the
486 regional nursing home ombudsman office on the date on which such
487 six-month period of waiting list exemption began and thereafter on a
488 quarterly basis if the conditions for exemption still apply.

489 (g) A nursing home shall not be required to admit an indigent person
490 on a waiting list for admission when a vacancy becomes available if the
491 vacancy is in a private room.

492 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a nursing home
493 shall, without regard to the order of its waiting list, admit an applicant
494 who (1) seeks to transfer from a nursing home that is closing, [or] (2)
495 seeks to transfer from a nursing home in which the applicant was placed
496 following the closure of the nursing home where such applicant
497 previously resided or, in the case of a nursing home placed in
498 receivership, the anticipated closure of the nursing home where such
499 applicant previously resided, provided (A) the transfer occurs not later
500 than sixty days following the date that such applicant was transferred

501 from the nursing home where he or she previously resided, and (B)
 502 except when the nursing home that is closing transferred the resident
 503 due to an emergency, the applicant submitted an application to the
 504 nursing home to which he or she seeks admission at the time of the
 505 applicant's transfer from the nursing home where he or she previously
 506 resided, or (3) is a service-connected veteran if such nursing home is a
 507 federally contracted veterans nursing home and such applicant is
 508 eligible for care therein. A nursing home that qualifies for a waiting list
 509 exemption pursuant to subsection (f) or (g) of this section shall not be
 510 required to admit an indigent person under this subsection except when
 511 the resident is being transferred from a nursing home that is closing due
 512 to an emergency. No nursing home shall be required to admit an
 513 applicant pursuant to the provisions of this subsection if the nursing
 514 home has determined that (i) the applicant does not have a payor source
 515 because the applicant has been denied Medicaid eligibility or the
 516 applicant has failed to pay a nursing home that is closing for the three
 517 months preceding the date of the application for admittance and has no
 518 pending application for Medicaid, (ii) the applicant is subject to a
 519 Medicaid penalty period, or (iii) the applicant does not require nursing
 520 home level of care as determined in accordance with applicable state
 521 and federal requirements.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-29a(a)(118)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	14-20b
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	14-19a
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	14-11k
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	27-20
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-76d(a)(10)(E)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-186(a)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	19a-533

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Revenue Impact/Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	Hispanic-American Veterans of CT (non-lapsing GF) - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Department of Veterans' Affairs; Military Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: TF=Transportation Fund; GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 requires the Governor to designate November as "Veterans' Month," and does not have a fiscal impact.

Section 2 establishes a commemorative license plate for women veterans and, to the extent such plates are requested, results in minimal fiscal impact to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for associated plate costs and fee revenue.

Section 3 establishes a commemorative license plate for "The Borinqueneers" and an associated fee of \$60 for such plates (in addition to regular registration fees), of which \$15 is deposited to the DMV and \$45 is deposited to the newly established "Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut" account to be administered by the Office of Policy and

Management (OPM). This section requires OPM to distribute funds from that account quarterly to the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. for purposes described in the bill.

To the extent that such plates are requested, this section results in minimal fiscal impact for the DMV for plate costs and fee revenue as well as minimal revenue to the "Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut" account.

Section 4 results in a potential cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) beginning in FY 26 to the extent that eligible veterans and members of the armed services are approved for a number plate recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The bill requires the DVA to reimburse approved applicants their membership fee to join the Order, which currently is \$200 for a lifetime membership.

The impact of this section is dependent on the number of eligible veterans and members of the armed forces that are eligible in the future.

Section 5 results in potential minimal revenue loss by requiring the DMV to issue a fee voucher for those veterans applying for a renewal more than six months prior to their license expiration at Stand Down events (typically people are not eligible to renew more than six months in advance). The DMV currently waives fees for eligible veteran license and ID renewals at Stand Down events for those with credentials expiring within six months.

Section 6 allows the Adjutant General to establish awards or ribbons for members of the armed services resulting in a potential minimal cost to the Military Department. The potential minimal cost is dependent on 1) if the Adjutant General chooses to establish new awards or ribbons, 2) the cost of procuring the awards or ribbons, and 3) the number of armed services members who qualify for the awards or ribbons.

Sections 7 and 8 do not have a fiscal impact. They require: (1) local and regional school districts to transfer records and conduct evaluations within 30 days for military children with individualized education plans

(IEPs) or 504 plans, and (2) allows military children to stay enrolled at their current school despite relocation orders. The first requirement exists under federal law, without the 30-day deadline, and the second is a practice already followed in Connecticut. It is anticipated that local and regional boards of education can meet these requirements with existing resources.

Section 9 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to study the provision of dental services to veterans in the state, which does not result in a fiscal impact as the study can be completed within the agency's current resources.

Section 10 has no anticipated fiscal impact, as it makes procedural changes exempting eligible service-connected veterans from waiting lists when seeking admission to nursing homes contracted by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

House Amendment "A" struck the underlying bill and resulted in the fiscal impacts described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of plates requested, the cost of membership to the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the number of eligible veterans, and the number of fee vouchers issued.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6442 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY AFFAIRS IN CONNECTICUT.***

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§ 9 — STUDY OF DENTAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Requires the DVA commissioner to evaluate dental services provided to veterans

§ 10 — NURSING HOME WAITING LIST EXCEPTION

Requires nursing homes to admit qualifying veterans under certain conditions, regardless of the waitlist

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes to state law concerning veteran and military affairs, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

*House Amendment “A” strikes the underlying bill, which made technical changes, and replaces it with the provisions below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except the provisions on Veterans’ Month and the dental services study are effective upon passage and the provision on the Borinqueneers license plate is effective January 1, 2026.

§ 1 — VETERANS’ MONTH

Establishes the month of November as Veterans’ Month

The bill requires the governor to proclaim November of each year as Veterans’ Month in recognition of the service and sacrifice of individuals who have served in the armed forces to protect the U.S. and the state. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the governor designates.

Background — Related Bill

HB 6723 (File 56), favorably reported by the Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee, contains identical provisions.

§ 2 — WOMEN VETERANS’ LICENSE PLATES

Requires the DMV commissioner, if requested by a woman veteran or servicemember, to register a motor vehicle and issue a special certificate of registration and a set of license plates commemorating the woman's service

The bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner, at the request of a woman who is a veteran or member of the armed forces, to register a motor vehicle and issue a special certificate of registration and a set of license plates commemorating the woman's service. To qualify, the motor vehicle must be owned or leased by the woman veteran or member for at least one year, including a motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by a woman veteran or woman servicemember who is engaged in agricultural production as a trade or business. By law, veterans, armed forces members, or their surviving spouses can request a special registration certificate and license plates under the same circumstances.

Background — Related Bill

sHB 5074 (File 223), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, contains identical provisions.

Background — Veterans and Armed Forces

By law, a "veteran" is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (CGS § 27-103).

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).

By law, the "armed forces" are 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).

§ 3 — THE BORINQUEENERS LICENSE PLATES

Requires the DMV commissioner to issue commemorative license plates in recognition of “The Borinqueneers” and gives a portion of the fee to the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. for bilingual services to veterans and service members

The bill requires the DMV commissioner, beginning January 1, 2026, to issue commemorative license plates in recognition of the “The Borinqueneers” (the primarily Puerto Rican members of the 65th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army who served with distinction). Under the bill, the commissioner must determine the design of the plates in consultation with Hispanic American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc.

The bill sets a \$60 fee for this plate, in addition to the regular fees for registering a motor vehicle. Under the bill:

1. \$15 of the fee must be deposited in an account controlled by DMV for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and replacing the license plates; and
2. \$45 of the fee must be deposited in an account for Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. to provide bilingual services and assistance to Connecticut veterans and armed forces members.

The plates must have numbers and letters selected by DMV, but the commissioner may charge a higher fee for license plates that have (1) the numbers and letters from a previously-issued plate or (2) letters instead of numbers or are low number plates, in addition to the fees set for these registrations by law.

The bill prohibits charging additional fees for (1) renewing this license plate or (2) transferring an existing registration to or from a registration with a “The Borinqueneers” plate.

The bill establishes the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut commemorative account as a separate account in the General Fund to receive all of the fees other than the money designated for DMV’s costs

and allows the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. to deposit private donations in this account. Under the bill, funds in the account must be distributed quarterly by the Office of Policy and Management secretary to Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc., which can use the funds as described above.

The bill allows DMV to adopt regulations to set standards and procedures for issuing, renewing, and replacing these license plates.

Background — Related Bill

HB 6724 (File 228), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, contains identical provisions.

§ 4 — PURPLE HEART LICENSE PLATES

Allows veterans and servicemembers who get a license plate commemorating the Military Order of the Purple Heart to be reimbursed for the cost of joining a chapter of the order

The bill allows veterans and members of the armed forces (see *Background – Veterans and Armed Forces* above) who get a license plate recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart on or after July 1, 2025, to apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) 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 servicemember about his decision within 60 days after receiving the application and, if approved, reimburse the veteran or servicemember.

Background — Related Bill

HB 5787 (File 40), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, contains identical provisions.

§ 5 — VETERAN LICENSE AND IDENTIFICATION RENEWAL FEE WAIVERS

Requires DMV to waive, or provide vouchers for waiving, the driver's license or identity card renewal fee for veterans who attend a one-day Stand Down event hosted by DVA

The bill requires, instead of allows, the DMV commissioner to waive the driver's license or identity card renewal or duplication fee for veterans who attend a one-day event hosted by DVA, that offers services, supplies, or assistance to veterans (i.e. Stand Down events).

The bill also requires the commissioner to issue a voucher to veterans who apply for their renewals more than six months before their license or card expires. This voucher must waive the fee during the six-month period. (In practice, DMV cannot process renewal applications more than six months before a license's or identification card's expiration date.)

These provisions apply to veterans (see *Background – Veterans and Armed Forces* above) who are verified by the DVA.

By law, the fee for a renewed license is \$96 and \$32 for a renewed identity card if they are valid for eight years, but the fees are prorated if the commissioner issues renewed licenses and cards for shorter periods of time (CGS §§ 1-1h & 14-41).

Background — Related Bill

SB 1150 (File 252), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, contains substantially similar provisions, but is not limited to Stand Down events.

§ 6 — MILITARY AWARDS

Authorizes the adjutant general to establish awards or ribbons for members of the state armed forces

Under current law, state military medals, awards, ribbons, or other honors are generally established legislatively in state statute or authorized federally. Beginning July 1, 2025, the bill authorizes the adjutant general, within available appropriations, to establish awards or ribbons he may bestow on members of the state armed forces, as well as remove any awards or ribbons he creates on or after this date.

The bill specifies that the adjutant general cannot remove any state military award, ribbon, or other honor or decoration created by his

office before July 1, 2025, or by the legislature.

Background — Related Bill

sSB 1153 (File 47), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, contains identical provisions.

§§ 7 & 8 — EDUCATION SERVICES FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

Requires local and regional school boards to take steps to ensure a minimally disruptive transition of a military-connected student and allows a military-connected student to stay enrolled when a service member relocates on orders

The bill requires local and regional school boards to take steps to ensure a minimally disruptive transition of a military-connected student who (1) enrolls at a school after the school year begins and (2) has an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan from a prior school (see *Background*). This applies when the student enrolls due to an armed forces member's military orders or other document directing the servicemember to the state. For these students, the bill requires districts to at least (1) transfer records and evaluations; (2) perform a reevaluation; and (3) within 30 school days of the child's enrollment, hold a planning and placement team meeting or a meeting to establish a 504 plan.

Under the bill, an armed servicemember's child must be allowed to remain enrolled in a school until the end of the school year if the servicemember relocates on orders and remains in the armed forces; however, a child enrolled in grade 11 may continue to be enrolled in school for an additional school year, while the servicemember remains in the armed forces.

Background — Individualized Education Plans

Federal regulations require an IEP to include (1) measurable annual goals and how the child's progress toward the goals will be measured; (2) special education and related services the child will receive; and (3) supplementary aids and services the child will receive, which are supports provided in regular education classes and nonacademic settings (34 C.F.R. § 300.320(a)(4)). The included services must be based

on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable and be designed to help the child progress toward his or her annual goals, be involved and make progress in the general education curriculum, participate in extracurricular and nonacademic activities, and be educated with other children with and without disabilities.

Background — 504 Plans

Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects students with mental or physical disabilities from discrimination in public schools (29 U.S.C. § 794). Students who receive school accommodations under this law have them memorialized in a written plan, commonly known as “504 plans.”

Background — Related Bill

sHB 7123 (File 322), favorably reported by the Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee, contains substantially similar provisions.

§ 9 — STUDY OF DENTAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Requires the DVA commissioner to evaluate dental services provided to veterans

The bill requires the DVA commissioner to evaluate dental services provided to veterans (see *Background – Veterans and Armed Forces* above) in the state and identify areas for improvement (such as opportunities to expand access to these services and increase enrollment in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (U.S. DVA) dental insurance program).

The commissioner must report on his evaluation, as well as any recommendations for legislation, to the Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee by February 1, 2026.

Background — Related Bill

sHB 6765 (File 260), favorably reported by the Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee, requires DVA to implement and administer a program, withing available appropriations, to give assistance vouchers to veterans for dental services at federally-qualified health centers, UConn School of Dental Medicine, and other institutions of higher education that provide dental services.

§ 10 — NURSING HOME WAITING LIST EXCEPTION

Requires nursing homes to admit qualifying veterans under certain conditions, regardless of the waitlist

The bill adds an exception to the requirement that a nursing home that accepts state funds to care for indigents admit people from its waiting list in the order that they submitted completed applications. The bill's exception requires a nursing home to admit a veteran regardless of the waiting list if the:

1. nursing home has a contract with the U.S. DVA to provide care for veterans and
2. veteran applicant (a) meets the U.S. DVA's service-connected and other applicable eligibility criteria and (b) is eligible for care at the nursing home.

As under current law, a nursing home does not have to accept an indigent on the waiting list under certain circumstances and must accept certain transfers from a nursing home that is closed or closing, regardless of the list. If a nursing home skips over an applicant on the waiting list, it must, by law, make a dated notation on the list explaining the decision.

Background — Related Bill

HB 6910 (File 43), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, contains identical provisions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 3 (02/18/2025)