



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 260

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6765

House of Representatives, March 26, 2025

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. FOSTER of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSISTANCE WITH DENTAL SERVICES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103 of the
3 general statutes, and "federally-qualified health center" has the same
4 meaning as provided in Section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act,
5 42 USC 1396d(l)(2)(B), as amended from time to time.

6 (b) On and after January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Veterans
7 Affairs shall, within available appropriations, implement and
8 administer a program to provide assistance vouchers to eligible veterans
9 for purposes of covering certain costs associated with receiving dental
10 services at any federally-qualified health center in this state and at The
11 University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine and other public
12 institutions of higher education capable of providing such services.

13 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
14 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to carry out the
15 provisions of subsection (b) of this section, including, but not limited to,
16 (1) the development of criteria for the determination of a veteran's
17 eligibility for the program described in said subsection, (2) the
18 establishment of procedures, and prescription of any necessary forms,
19 by which a veteran may apply for such program, (3) the types of dental
20 services for which costs may be covered under such program, and (4)
21 the nature and amounts of the costs incurred for such dental services
22 that may be covered under such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section
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VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 Veterans' Affairs	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
UConn Health Ctr.	OF - Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to develop and implement a program to assist veterans with costs related to dental procedures, which results in a cost to DVA. The extent of the cost will depend on how DVA determines eligibility for the program, how much financial assistance each voucher provides, what services are covered, and the administrative requirements of the application process.

The bill also results in a potential revenue gain to the UConn Health Center beginning in FY 26, to the extent that the bill increases the number of veterans who obtain dental services at the School of Dental Medicine. The revenue gain will vary based on the number of veterans that use the program, and the number of vouchers they receive.

The UConn Health School of Dental Medicine has an annual budget of about \$46 million, which is about 3% of UConn Health's FY 25 budget of \$1.53 billion.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the factors described above.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6765*****AN ACT CONCERNING ASSISTANCE WITH DENTAL SERVICES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires that the veterans affairs commissioner on and after January 1, 2026, implement and administer a program, within available appropriations, to give assistance vouchers to eligible veterans to cover certain costs associated with receiving dental services at (1) any federally-qualified health center (FQHC) in the state, (2) the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, and (3) other public institutions of higher education capable of providing these services.

The bill also requires the commissioner to adopt regulations to implement this program, including on:

1. eligibility criteria;
2. procedures and necessary forms, for program applications;
3. the types of dental services to be covered under the program; and
4. the costs to be covered for dental services by the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BACKGROUND***Definition of a Veteran***

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 (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).

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).

Definition of a Federally-Qualified Health Center

FQHCs are community-based clinics that receive federal funding and meet specific federal criteria, including those governing the services they provide. FQHCs provide their services to all people regardless of ability to pay and charge for services on a sliding-fee scale basis.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)