



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6748

LCO No. 4035



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF A MILITARY
DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION UPON A STATE VETERANS
REGISTRY AS "HONORABLE".***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 27-103 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (d) (1) Any veteran who receives an other than honorable discharge
5 and who believes such discharge characterization was based on such
6 veteran's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, may
7 file an application for state-based veterans benefits and to be recorded
8 upon a state veterans registry as having a discharge characterization of
9 "honorable". Such veteran may include evidence supporting his or her
10 claim that such [discharge characterization] other than honorable
11 discharge was based on such veteran's sexual orientation, gender
12 identity or gender expression.

13 (2) The commissioner shall promulgate a standardized application
14 form enumerating the required documentation necessary for filing an

15 application under this subsection and shall make such form available on
16 the Department of Veterans Affairs' Internet web site along with
17 instructions for filing the application.

18 (3) The commissioner shall promulgate a standardized request for
19 reconsideration form enumerating the required documentation
20 necessary for filing a request for reconsideration pursuant to
21 subdivision (5) of this subsection and shall make such form available on
22 the Department of Veterans Affairs' Internet web site along with
23 instructions for filing the request for reconsideration.

24 (4) The board shall review each application submitted and render a
25 recommendation to the commissioner as to whether the veteran's sexual
26 orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than
27 not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge. The board
28 shall review each application not later than thirty days after receipt and
29 render a written recommendation to the commissioner not later than
30 thirty days after such review. The commissioner shall issue a written
31 decision not later than ten days after receipt of the board's
32 recommendation, approving or denying the application. If the
33 commissioner approves the application, such veteran shall be eligible
34 for state-based veterans benefits and shall be recorded upon a state
35 veterans registry as having a discharge characterization of "honorable".

36 (5) A veteran aggrieved by the commissioner's decision may file a
37 request for reconsideration with the commissioner not later than fifteen
38 days after receipt of the commissioner's decision. Such veteran may
39 include supplemental documentation in support of the request for
40 reconsideration. The commissioner shall provide due consideration to
41 the request for reconsideration and render a decision not later than ten
42 days after receipt of such request for reconsideration. The
43 commissioner's decision shall be a final decision by the Department of
44 Veterans Affairs and may be appealed to the Superior Court in
45 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-103(d)
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Statement of Purpose:

To allow any person who received an other than honorable discharge and who believes such discharge characterization was based on such person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression to apply to have such person's discharge characterization recorded upon a state veterans registry as "honorable".

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. JOHNSON, 143rd Dist.; REP. DELANY, 144th Dist.
 REP. SANTANELLA, 58th Dist.; REP. SHANNON, 117th Dist.

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