
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)