

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-6442

AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY AFFAIRS IN CONNECTICUT. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 7583

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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
UConn	GF - Cost	up to \$175,000	None
Department of Veterans' Affairs	GF - Transfer from	Up to 45,000	None
UConn	GF - Transfer to	Up to \$45,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill 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

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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 results in a one-time cost of up to \$175,000 in FY 26 to the University of Connecticut (UConn). The section additionally transfers up to \$45,000 in FY 26 from DVA to UConn.

The section requires UConn to conduct two studies concerning: (1) the impact of raising various property tax exemptions and limiting eligibility for such exemptions; and (2) municipal assistance to veterans. Given the timing and scope of the two studies, it is anticipated that UConn would incur a cost of up to \$175,000 in FY 26 to conduct the studies.

The section transfers \$45,000 from DVA to UConn to support activities related to these studies.

Section 10 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 11 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.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.