



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 7583



Offered by:

REP. FOSTER, 57<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. ANDERSON, 62<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

SEN. HONIG, 8<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. GORDON, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6442

File No. 55

Cal. No. 63

**"AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY AFFAIRS IN CONNECTICUT."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

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

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

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 Section 14-20b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

13 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any  
14 veteran or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such  
15 veteran or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for  
16 a period of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special  
17 certificate of registration and a set of number plates commemorating  
18 such veteran's or member's military service for each such motor vehicle,  
19 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates  
20 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any  
21 such veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of  
22 such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as  
23 a trade or business.

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

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

45 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any

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

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

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

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

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

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

113 registration marker plates.

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

143 (c) There is established the "Hispanic-American Veterans of  
144 Connecticut" commemorative account which shall be a separate,  
145 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain

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

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

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

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

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

174 (c) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special  
175 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance with  
176 the regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section provided

177 the commissioner may not issue a set of special number plates bearing  
178 the same numerals as any other plate issued by the department. The  
179 commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any such special number  
180 plates issued for a qualified organization, or special plates issued in  
181 accordance with the provisions of sections 14-19b and 14-21f to 14-21p,  
182 inclusive, at any time, upon written notice to the organization if, in the  
183 opinion of the commissioner, the demand for such plates is insufficient  
184 to support the costs of production.

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

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

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

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

209 application made earlier than six months prior to the date on which an  
210 applicant's motor vehicle operator's license or identity card expires, the  
211 commissioner shall issue to such applicant a voucher entitling such  
212 applicant to renewal of such applicant's motor vehicle operator's license  
213 or identity card, free of charge, during such six-month period.

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

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

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



242 recruiting for the armed forces of the state.

243 (c) In event of emergency use of the armed forces of the state and with  
244 the approval of the Governor, the Adjutant General may serve as the  
245 disbursing officer of all funds appropriated by the General Assembly  
246 for the expense of the office of the Adjutant General.

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

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

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

274 department.

275 (g) The Adjutant General may enter into contracts or agreements with  
276 any person or agency, public or private, for goods, services or property  
277 necessary for execution of the duties of the Adjutant General's office and  
278 the operation of the Military Department, including the performance of  
279 federal construction contracting on state property, subject to the  
280 approval of the Attorney General.

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

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

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

301 (ii) If, after the start of a school year, a child of a member of the armed  
302 forces, as defined in section 27-103, enrolls in a school under the  
303 jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education, as a result of such  
304 member having received military orders directing such member to the

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

316 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-186 of the general statutes is  
317 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
318 *2025*):

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

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

358 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Up to \$45,000 of the amount  
359 appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs, for the fiscal year  
360 ending June 30, 2026, shall be transferred to The University of  
361 Connecticut for the purpose of The School of Public Policy at The  
362 University of Connecticut conducting the studies described in  
363 subsection (b) of this section. The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and  
364 The University of Connecticut shall enter into a memorandum of  
365 understanding to effectuate the provisions of this subsection.

366 (b) (1) The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut,  
367 in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
368 Management, shall conduct a study of the projected impacts on state  
369 and municipal finances of (A) raising the exemption amounts set forth  
370 in subdivisions (19) to (26), inclusive, of section 12-81 of the general

371 statutes, and (B) imposing a limit on the amount of property belonging  
372 to, or held in trust for, an individual described in any of said  
373 subdivisions in order to be eligible for such an exemption. Such study  
374 shall account for increases to such exemption amounts in accordance  
375 with the provisions of section 12-62g of the general statutes and for  
376 additional exemptions granted in accordance with the provisions of  
377 section 12-81g of the general statutes. Not later than February 1, 2026,  
378 The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut and the  
379 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall jointly submit,  
380 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
381 a report detailing the results of such study and any recommendations  
382 for legislation to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
383 having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs,  
384 finance, revenue and bonding, appropriations and the budgets of state  
385 agencies and planning and development.

386 (2) The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut, in  
387 consultation with the manager of the Office of Advocacy and  
388 Assistance, shall conduct a study of the efficacy of municipalities in  
389 providing assistance to veterans under section 27-135 of the general  
390 statutes. Such study shall identify strengths and limitations in the  
391 provision of such assistance and develop solutions for implementation  
392 to address areas needing improvement, broken down by each  
393 municipality. Not later than February 1, 2026, The School of Public  
394 Policy at The University of Connecticut and the manager of the Office  
395 of Advocacy and Assistance shall jointly submit, in accordance with the  
396 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report detailing the  
397 results of such study and any recommendations for legislation to the  
398 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
399 matters relating to veterans' and military affairs.

400 Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs  
401 shall conduct an evaluation of the provision of dental services to  
402 veterans in the state and identify areas for improvement in such  
403 provision, including, but not limited to, opportunities to expand veteran

404 access to such dental services and increase enrollment in the dental  
405 insurance program administered by the United States Department of  
406 Veterans Affairs. Not later than February 1, 2026, the commissioner shall  
407 prepare and submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
408 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of  
409 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'  
410 and military affairs with the findings of such evaluation and any  
411 recommendations for legislation. As used in this section, "veteran" has  
412 the same meaning as provided in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

413 Sec. 11. Section 19a-533 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
414 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

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

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

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

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

426 (4) "Service-connected veteran" means a veteran who meets the  
427 United States Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected  
428 eligibility criteria and all applicable United States Department of  
429 Veterans Affairs eligibility requirements.

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

432 (1) Shall be prohibited from discriminating against indigent persons

433 who apply for admission to such facility on the basis of source of  
434 payment. Except as otherwise provided by law, all applicants for  
435 admission to such facility shall be admitted in the order in which such  
436 applicants apply for admission as evidenced by the nursing home's  
437 acceptance of a substantially completed application for admission. Each  
438 nursing home shall (A) provide a receipt to each applicant who  
439 substantially completes an application for admission to its facility who  
440 requests placement on a waiting list stating the date and time of such  
441 substantial completion and acceptance of the application by the nursing  
442 home, and (B) maintain a dated list of such applications which shall be  
443 available at all times to any applicant, the applicant's bona fide  
444 representative, authorized personnel from the Departments of Public  
445 Health and Social Services and such other state agencies or other bodies  
446 established by state statute whose statutory duties necessitate access to  
447 such lists. A nursing home may maintain such waiting list in electronic  
448 form. On and after July 1, 2025, a nursing home shall maintain such  
449 waiting list in electronic form;

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

452 (3) Shall develop and implement policies and procedures related to  
453 the waiting list that address (A) what information is required for such  
454 application to be considered substantially completed and accepted by  
455 the nursing home, (B) what steps the nursing home will take to protect  
456 the privacy of information submitted by a prospective resident, and (C)  
457 a description of how the integrity of information in the electronic  
458 waiting list will be maintained, including steps taken to ensure accuracy  
459 in recording of the (i) date and time a prospective resident is placed on  
460 the waiting list, and (ii) any dated notification made pursuant to  
461 subsection (c) of this section. A nursing home shall not be required to  
462 maintain a list of inquiries from prospective residents who have not yet  
463 submitted a substantially completed application for admission accepted  
464 by the nursing home, nor to provide any such person with a receipt of  
465 their inquiry;

466 (4) May, no sooner than ninety days after initial placement of the  
467 person's name on the waiting list, inquire by letter or electronic mail of  
468 such applicant and any one person if designated by such applicant  
469 whether the applicant desires continuation of the applicant's name on  
470 the waiting list. If the applicant does not respond and an additional  
471 thirty days pass, the nursing home may remove such applicant's name  
472 from its waiting list. A nursing home may annually send a waiting list  
473 placement continuation communication by letter or electronic mail to all  
474 persons on the waiting list for at least ninety days to inquire as to  
475 whether such person desires continuation of the person's name on the  
476 waiting list, provided such communication shall also be sent to any one  
477 person if designated by such applicant. If such person does not respond  
478 and at least thirty days pass, the facility may remove the person's name  
479 from its waiting list. Indigent persons shall be placed on any waiting list  
480 for admission to a facility and shall be admitted to the facility as  
481 vacancies become available, in the same manner as self-pay applicants,  
482 except as provided in subsections (f) and (g) of this section;

483 (5) Shall post in a conspicuous place a notice informing applicants for  
484 admission that the facility is prohibited by statute from discriminating  
485 against indigent applicants for admission on the basis of source of  
486 payment. Such notice shall advise applicants for admission of the  
487 remedies available under this section and shall list the name, address  
488 and telephone number of the ombudsman who serves the region in  
489 which the facility is located;

490 (6) Shall be prohibited from requiring that an indigent person pay  
491 any sum of money or furnish any other consideration, including but not  
492 limited to, the furnishing of an agreement by the relative, conservator  
493 or other responsible party of an indigent person which obligates such  
494 party to pay for care rendered to an indigent person as a condition for  
495 admission of such indigent person; and

496 (7) Shall maintain an electronic record of the number of patients who  
497 are Medicare, Medicaid and private pay patients and make such  
498 information available, upon request, to the state or regional



499 ombudsman.

500 (c) Whenever a nursing home passes over the name of an applicant  
501 on its waiting list and admits another applicant, the nursing home shall  
502 make a dated notation on the waiting list indicating why the applicant  
503 who was passed over was not admitted. Upon the receipt of a complaint  
504 concerning a violation of this section, the Department of Social Services  
505 shall conduct an investigation into such complaint. A nursing home  
506 shall provide access to the department and the State Ombudsman to all  
507 records requested by the department or State Ombudsman for the  
508 purpose of investigating a complaint by or on behalf of an applicant  
509 related to the denial of an admission.

510 (d) The Department of Social Services is authorized to decrease the  
511 daily reimbursement rate to a nursing home for one year for a violation  
512 of this section which occurred during the twelve-month period covered  
513 by the cost report upon which the per diem rate is calculated. The per  
514 diem rate shall be reduced by one-quarter of one per cent for an initial  
515 violation of this section and one per cent for each additional violation.

516 (e) Prior to imposing any sanction, the Department of Social Services  
517 shall notify the nursing home of the alleged violation and the  
518 accompanying sanction, and shall permit such facility to request an  
519 administrative hearing, in accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-181a,  
520 inclusive. A facility shall request such hearing within fifteen days of  
521 receipt of the notice of violation from the Department of Social Services.  
522 The department shall stay the imposition of any sanction pending the  
523 outcome of the administrative hearing.

524 (f) A nursing home with a number of self-pay residents equal to or  
525 less than thirty per cent of its total number of residents shall not be  
526 required to admit an indigent person on a waiting list for admission  
527 when a vacancy becomes available during the subsequent six months,  
528 provided (1) no bed may be held open for more than thirty days, and (2)  
529 the nursing home notifies the Commissioner of Social Services and the  
530 regional nursing home ombudsman office on the date on which such

531 six-month period of waiting list exemption began and thereafter on a  
532 quarterly basis if the conditions for exemption still apply.

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

536 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a nursing home  
537 shall, without regard to the order of its waiting list, admit an applicant  
538 who (1) seeks to transfer from a nursing home that is closing, [or] (2)  
539 seeks to transfer from a nursing home in which the applicant was placed  
540 following the closure of the nursing home where such applicant  
541 previously resided or, in the case of a nursing home placed in  
542 receivership, the anticipated closure of the nursing home where such  
543 applicant previously resided, provided (A) the transfer occurs not later  
544 than sixty days following the date that such applicant was transferred  
545 from the nursing home where he or she previously resided, and (B)  
546 except when the nursing home that is closing transferred the resident  
547 due to an emergency, the applicant submitted an application to the  
548 nursing home to which he or she seeks admission at the time of the  
549 applicant's transfer from the nursing home where he or she previously  
550 resided, or (3) is a service-connected veteran if such nursing home is a  
551 federally contracted veterans nursing home and such applicant is  
552 eligible for care therein. A nursing home that qualifies for a waiting list  
553 exemption pursuant to subsection (f) or (g) of this section shall not be  
554 required to admit an indigent person under this subsection except when  
555 the resident is being transferred from a nursing home that is closing due  
556 to an emergency. No nursing home shall be required to admit an  
557 applicant pursuant to the provisions of this subsection if the nursing  
558 home has determined that (i) the applicant does not have a payor source  
559 because the applicant has been denied Medicaid eligibility or the  
560 applicant has failed to pay a nursing home that is closing for the three  
561 months preceding the date of the application for admittance and has no  
562 pending application for Medicaid, (ii) the applicant is subject to a  
563 Medicaid penalty period, or (iii) the applicant does not require nursing

564 home level of care as determined in accordance with applicable state  
565 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>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	19a-533