



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5406

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS MEASURES HONORING THE
HEROISM OF VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) On and after July 1, 2026, the
2 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall post in a conspicuous place on
3 the Internet web site of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

4 (1) A plain-language warning about individuals who seek to act in
5 violation of 38 USC Chapter 59, as amended from time to time, including
6 individuals seeking to act as agents or attorneys in the preparation,
7 presentation or prosecution of any claim under laws administered by
8 the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs without having been
9 recognized for such purposes by said secretary;

10 (2) A link to a United States Department of Veterans Affairs online
11 tool through which individuals lacking the recognition described in
12 subdivision (1) of this section may be reported;

13 (3) A link to a United States Department of Veterans Affairs online
14 tool through which agents, attorneys or other entities that are
15 recognized by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the
16 preparation, presentation or prosecution of any claim under laws
17 administered by said secretary may be searched;

18 (4) A link to a United States Department of Veterans Affairs Internet
19 web site or online tool that provides final decisions on discipline by the
20 United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs of agents, attorneys and
21 entities described in subdivision (3) of this section for violations of 38
22 USC Chapter 59, as amended from time to time; and

23 (5) A plain-language message discouraging veterans from sharing
24 with anyone such veterans' United States Department of Veterans
25 Affairs account login credentials or bank account login credentials, such
26 as usernames or passwords.

27 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 27-100f of the general statutes is
28 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
29 *1, 2026*):

30 (b) (1) On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
31 [, or the commissioner's designee,] shall, within available
32 appropriations, publish a list of qualified veterans' charitable
33 organizations. [The commissioner shall place any qualified veterans'
34 charitable organization on such list for a period of three years.
35 Organizations]

36 (2) An organization may apply and reapply [to the commissioner] for
37 inclusion on the list described in subdivision (1) of this subsection by
38 submitting [information regarding such organization's status to the
39 commissioner, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and] to the
40 commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner,
41 (A) a complete copy of such organization's most recently filed Internal
42 Revenue Service Form 990, including all parts and schedules, (B) proof
43 of such organization's status as a tax exempt organization under Section
44 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
45 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended
46 from time to time, and (C) any additional information the commissioner
47 deems necessary to determine whether such organization constitutes a
48 qualified veterans' charitable organization. [A qualified veterans'
49 charitable organization is one which: (1) Holds itself out to be

50 established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane,
51 scientific, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy purpose relating to or on
52 behalf of veterans; and (2) has been (A) a nonstock corporation,
53 organized under chapter 602, or any predecessor thereto, for three or
54 more years, or (B) a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) of the
55 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
56 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to
57 time, for three or more consecutive years.]

58 (3) If the commissioner approves the application or reapplication of
59 an organization under subdivision (2) of this subsection and accordingly
60 determines that such organization constitutes a qualified veterans'
61 charitable organization, the commissioner shall include such
62 organization on the list described in subdivision (1) of this subsection,
63 except that the commissioner may temporarily or permanently remove
64 such organization from such list for good cause.

65 (4) The list of qualified veterans' charitable organizations, a link to
66 each such organization's Internet web site [.] and the qualifications for
67 inclusion on such list, as set forth in [subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
68 subsection] subparagraphs (A), (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this
69 subsection, shall be published on the informational Internet web site
70 established in this section and shall bear a disclaimer as follows: "This
71 list is prepared for the public solely for the purpose of information. The
72 state of Connecticut provides no warranty about the content or accuracy
73 of the content herein."

74 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 27-102l of the 2026 supplement to the
75 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
76 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

77 (b) (1) The commissioner may appoint a manager to administer an
78 Office of Advocacy and Assistance for the aid and benefit of veterans
79 and their spouses, eligible dependents and family members. The office
80 shall have a staff of not [less] fewer than nineteen men and women,
81 including not [less] fewer than fourteen veterans' service officers, and

82 not [less] fewer than three clerical personnel. The manager and veterans'
83 service officers shall be veterans, as defined in subsection (a) of section
84 27-103, or veterans who were awarded the armed forces expeditionary
85 medal for service by the armed forces.

86 (2) (A) The manager shall develop a training module on (i) assisting
87 and serving [women] veterans with regard to any available state or
88 federal services or benefits, and (ii) identifying and advising such
89 veterans of any community or nonprofit programs focused on assisting
90 and serving such veterans and of any other charitable or social service
91 organizations that may be able to provide assistance with services or
92 benefits. The manager shall dedicate a portion of such training module
93 to assisting, serving and advising women veterans and to addressing
94 issues unique to women veterans. The manager shall also compile a list
95 of any state and local resources, including and in addition to such
96 community or nonprofit programs and charitable or social service
97 organizations, that may be able to provide assistance to veterans in need
98 of such assistance, which list shall be included in such training module
99 and in the training course conducted pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
100 subsection. The manager shall hold and provide instruction for an
101 annual training session, in accordance with such module, to each
102 veterans' service officer and any member of a municipal veterans
103 advisory committee, director of municipal veterans services or
104 municipal veterans representative, as described in subsection (c) of
105 section 27-135, or representative from an Operation Academic Support
106 for Incoming Service Members center at a public institution of higher
107 education in this state.

108 (B) At least one of the veterans' service officers shall be a woman
109 having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans, who
110 shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and, effective upon
111 the next opening of a veterans' service officer position occurring on or
112 after July 1, 2010, at least two of the veterans' service officers shall be
113 individuals having bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish, within
114 existing authorized positions. At least two of the veterans' service
115 officers shall, in addition to carrying out the duties under this section,

116 be responsible for overseeing and supporting municipalities'
117 compliance with the provisions of section 27-135. Each veterans' service
118 officer shall (i) successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits not
119 later than one year after commencement of employment, (ii) attend the
120 training session described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and
121 (iii) be assigned to one of the five congressional districts of the state.

122 (3) The office staff shall, at least twice annually, conduct a training
123 course for any member of a municipal veterans advisory committee,
124 director of municipal veterans services or municipal veterans
125 representative. The office staff shall include in such training course (A)
126 a summary of (i) state and federal services and benefits [.] for veterans,
127 community or nonprofit programs focused on assisting and serving
128 veterans and other charitable or social service organizations that may be
129 able to provide assistance with services or benefits, (ii) the requirements
130 under section 27-135, and (iii) any assistance the office staff may provide
131 to any such member, director or representative related to such
132 requirements, and (B) the list of state and local resources compiled by
133 the manager pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this
134 subsection.

135 (4) (A) The office shall develop a written outreach plan identifying (i)
136 strategies for conducting outreach to veterans and their spouses, eligible
137 dependents and family members for purposes of providing assistance
138 in claims for veterans' services or benefits, and (ii) to the extent possible,
139 specific events and other opportunities to provide such assistance that
140 are sponsored by the office or in which the office is participating. The
141 office shall update such written outreach plan as necessary to improve
142 the efficacy of its outreach efforts.

143 (B) The manager and each veterans' service officer shall electronically
144 track information relating to outreach conducted or attended by the
145 office, including, but not limited to, the title or type of any outreach
146 event conducted or attended and the number of veterans or their
147 spouses, eligible dependents or family members to whom substantive
148 services or referrals were provided.

149 (C) The office shall utilize the notifications received from the
150 administrator of each nursing home and assisted living facility in the
151 state, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, to
152 develop an annual schedule for each veterans' service officer to visit
153 nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The office shall compile any
154 information collected as a result of such visits and provide quarterly
155 reports on such information to the Board of Trustees for the Department
156 of Veterans Affairs.

157 (D) The office shall provide quarterly reports to the Board of Trustees
158 for the Department of Veterans Affairs on (i) concerns raised by veterans
159 or their spouses, eligible dependents or family members, which
160 concerns shall be summarized by type, frequency and resolution, (ii)
161 petitions filed by veterans or their spouses, eligible dependents or
162 family members received by the commissioner under section 27-102l(d)-
163 54 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for the four preceding
164 months, and (iii) copies of any such petitions.

165 (E) The office shall publish on the Internet web site of the Department
166 of Veterans Affairs the list of state and local resources compiled by the
167 manager pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this
168 subsection.

169 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

170 (1) "Armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-
171 103 of the general statutes.

172 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

173 (3) (A) "Dental services" includes (i) preventive and diagnostic
174 services, such as biannual examinations and prophylaxis, (ii) restorative
175 services, such as fillings, root canals and crowns, (iii) prosthetics, such
176 as partial and complete dentures, and (iv) oral surgery, such as
177 extractions.

178 (B) "Dental services" does not include (i) dental implants, (ii) fixed

179 bridges, (iii) orthodontics, (iv) cosmetic services, such as whitening or
180 veneers, or (v) telehealth services.

181 (4) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

182 (5) "Eligible veteran" means any veteran who (A) is a resident of the
183 state, (B) has a service-connected disability rating of less than one
184 hundred per cent and is not receiving dental care from the United States
185 Department of Veterans Affairs, and (C) has a household income at or
186 below four hundred per cent of the federal poverty level.

187 (6) "Provider" means a dental practice, dental clinic or person licensed
188 to practice dentistry or dental medicine in the state.

189 (7) "Veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103 of
190 the general statutes.

191 (b) There is established a Veterans Dental Care Access Program
192 within the department for the purpose of assisting eligible veterans with
193 receiving dental services from providers that participate in such
194 program. The commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of
195 understanding with a state-wide organization that represents licensed
196 dentists to (1) identify such providers, and (2) coordinate in the
197 administration of such program by assisting in the implementation of
198 the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, processing
199 applications, making referrals to participating providers, reviewing
200 treatment plans and notifying such providers regarding such treatment
201 plans.

202 (c) On and after January 1, 2027, any eligible veteran may submit an
203 application to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the
204 commissioner, for assistance through the program established in
205 subsection (b) of this section. Not later than ten days after receipt of any
206 such application, the commissioner shall verify whether the applicant
207 satisfies all criteria for program eligibility and shall notify such
208 applicant of the commissioner's determination as to approval or
209 rejection of such application. Any such approval shall be for two years,

210 after which an applicant may reapply pursuant to the provisions of this
211 subsection.

212 (d) Not later than thirty days after an approval under subsection (c)
213 of this section, the commissioner shall refer the eligible veteran to a
214 participating provider for the purpose of scheduling an appointment to
215 establish or continue, as applicable, dental care and to develop a
216 treatment plan for such eligible veteran. The provider shall set forth in
217 such treatment plan the dental services recommended for the eligible
218 veteran and shall submit such treatment plan to the commissioner for
219 review. Not later than ten days after receipt of a treatment plan, the
220 commissioner shall approve or modify such treatment plan and notify
221 the provider of such approval or modification. A provider may provide
222 dental services to an eligible veteran only after such notification and
223 only in accordance with such approval or modification.

224 (e) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
225 not later than five days after the provision of dental services to an
226 eligible veteran, a provider shall invoice the department for such dental
227 services. Not later than thirty days after receiving such invoice, the
228 department shall remit payment to the provider for such dental services,
229 subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, and shall
230 advise such provider of the eligible veteran's status with regard to the
231 maximum annual benefit described in said subdivision.

232 (B) If an eligible veteran has coverage under a health insurance plan
233 for any of the dental services provided under subsection (d) of this
234 section, the provider shall invoice the health insurer for such dental
235 services and may only invoice the department for the remaining balance
236 on such dental services after exhausting all such coverage.

237 (2) The amount of dental services received by an eligible veteran for
238 which the department may remit payment under subparagraph (A) of
239 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not exceed three thousand five
240 hundred dollars per calendar year. If an eligible veteran receives dental
241 services in a calendar year in an amount that exceeds three thousand

242 five hundred dollars, the commissioner shall refer such eligible veteran
243 to the state-wide organization described in subsection (b) of this section
244 to explore alternative sources of funds to address such excess amount.

245 (f) Not later than January 15, 2030, and annually thereafter, the
246 commissioner, in consultation with the state-wide organization with
247 which the commissioner entered into a memorandum of understanding
248 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, shall submit a report on the
249 performance of the Veterans Dental Care Access Program, and any
250 recommendations for improvement thereof, to the joint standing
251 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
252 relating to veterans' and military affairs and public health, in accordance
253 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

254 Sec. 5. Section 27-128 of the general statutes is repealed and the
255 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

256 (a) The Governor may transfer, from time to time, as may be found
257 expedient, moneys existing in the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund
258 and moneys appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs from
259 one of said funds to the other of said funds.

260 (b) Prior to any transfer of moneys existing in the Soldiers, Sailors and
261 Marines Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of the
262 administration of the Veterans Dental Care Access Program established
263 under section 4 of this act, the Governor shall request of the Treasurer a
264 certification that the moneys proposed to be transferred are in an
265 amount not required for current disbursement from the Soldiers, Sailors
266 and Marines Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 27-138.
267 Upon such certification, the Governor may transfer such moneys.

268 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a task force to
269 study available means of encouraging nursing homes in the state to
270 become federally contracted veterans nursing homes and increase the
271 availability of nursing home care to veterans eligible for and in need of
272 such care. The task force shall consider financial incentives, including,
273 but not limited to, assistance to supplement reimbursement for such

274 care and tax credits, and other manners of promoting such nursing
275 homes to veterans eligible for care that is covered by the United States
276 Department of Veterans Affairs. As used in this section, "nursing home"
277 and "federally contracted veterans nursing home" have the same
278 meanings as provided in section 19a-533 of the general statutes.

279 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

280 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

281 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

282 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
283 Representatives;

284 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

285 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
286 Representatives;

287 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

288 (7) The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's
289 designee.

290 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
291 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
292 of the General Assembly.

293 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
294 than January 1, 2027. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
295 authority.

296 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
297 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
298 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
299 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than
300 February 1, 2027.

301 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
302 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
303 and military affairs shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

304 (g) Not later than January 1, 2029, the task force shall submit a report
305 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
306 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
307 and military affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
308 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
309 submits such report or January 1, 2029, whichever is later.

310 Sec. 7. Section 27-102a of the general statutes is repealed and the
311 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

312 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of the general statutes with
313 respect to annual or biennial license or registration fees or occupational
314 taxes, any resident of Connecticut on active duty with the armed forces
315 of the United States shall be exempt from the payment of such fees or
316 taxes during [his] such resident's period of active service and for one
317 year following the date of [his] such resident's honorable discharge [or
318 the date of his] from, or of such resident's release under honorable
319 conditions [,] from, such service.

320 (b) Any member of the armed forces of any state or of any reserve
321 component of the armed forces of the United States who has been called
322 to active service in the armed forces of any state of the United States
323 shall be exempt from the payment of any fine or late fee assessed for
324 failure to renew a motor vehicle operator's license or motor vehicle
325 registration or for failure to have emissions inspection performed in a
326 timely manner, provided such member renews the license or
327 registration or has the member's vehicle inspected at an official
328 emissions inspection station [no] not later than [sixty] ninety days
329 following the date such member is released from the qualifying military
330 service.

331 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 14-41 of the 2026 supplement to the
332 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

333 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

334 (a) (1) An original motor vehicle operator's license shall expire within
335 a period not exceeding seven years following the date of the operator's
336 next birthday. [The] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this
337 subsection, the fee for such license shall be eighty-four dollars. Upon
338 renewal of a license, the commissioner may issue a license for a period
339 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not
340 exceed eight years. The fee for the renewal of a license that expires eight
341 years from the date of issuance shall be ninety-six dollars. The
342 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for a license
343 that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance.

344 (2) The commissioner shall waive the fee for an original motor vehicle
345 operator's license for any person who has been verified by the
346 Department of Veterans Affairs to be a veteran, as defined in section 14-
347 36h, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 14-
348 36h.

349 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 1-1h of the general statutes is repealed
350 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

351 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's
352 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity
353 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the
354 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the
355 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of
356 Correction and a fee of twenty-eight dollars. Such application shall
357 include: (1) The applicant's name; (2) the applicant's address; (3)
358 whether the address is permanent or temporary; (4) the applicant's date
359 of birth; (5) notice to the applicant that false statements on such
360 application are punishable under section 53a-157b; and (6) such other
361 pertinent information as the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles deems
362 necessary. The applicant shall sign the application in the presence of an
363 official of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The commissioner may
364 waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has voluntarily surrendered

365 such applicant's motor vehicle operator's license, (B) whose license has
366 been refused by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (4) of
367 subsection (e) of section 14-36, or (C) [who is both a veteran, as defined
368 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and blind, as defined in subsection
369 (a) of section 1-1f, or (D)] who is a resident of a homeless shelter or other
370 facility for homeless persons or a certified homeless youth or certified
371 homeless young adult. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any
372 applicant who has been verified by the Department of Veterans Affairs
373 to be a veteran, as defined in section 14-36h, in accordance with the
374 provisions of subsection (e) of section 14-36h. The commissioner shall
375 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
376 establish the procedure and qualifications for the issuance of an identity
377 card to any such homeless applicant. For the purposes of this subsection,
378 "certified homeless youth" and "certified homeless young adult" have
379 the same meanings as provided in section 7-36.

380 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 17a-248e of the general statutes is
381 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
382 *2026*):

383 (a) (1) Each eligible child and his or her family shall receive [(1)] (A)
384 a multidisciplinary assessment of the child's unique needs and the
385 identification of services appropriate to meet such needs, [(2)] (B) a
386 written individualized family service plan developed by a
387 multidisciplinary team, including the parent, [within] not later than
388 forty-five days after the referral, [(3)] (C) a review of the individualized
389 family service plan with the family at least every six months, with
390 evaluation of the individualized family service plan at least annually,
391 and [(4)] (D) not later than two months after the date on which any child
392 is determined to be ineligible for participation in preschool programs
393 under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq.,
394 a referral to register for a mobile application designated by the
395 Commissioner of Early Childhood for the purpose of continued
396 screening for developmental and social-emotional delays in partnership
397 with the local or regional board of education for the school district in
398 which such child resides pursuant to subparagraph (H) of subdivision

399 (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d, provided a form used for
400 screening for developmental and social-emotional delays using a
401 validated screening tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and
402 the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent,
403 is provided to any family upon the request of such family for the
404 purpose of completing and submitting such form to the local or regional
405 board of education for the school district in which such child resides.

406 (2) If an eligible child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in
407 section 27-103, is referred to this state's early intervention system as a
408 result of such member having received military orders directing such
409 member to the state or any other documents from the armed forces
410 indicating the transfer of such member to the state, and such eligible
411 child was enrolled in the early intervention system in the previous state
412 or territory with an individualized family service plan pursuant to Part
413 C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1431 et seq.,
414 this state's early intervention system shall take necessary steps,
415 including, but not limited to, the transfer of any records and prior
416 assessments, the performance of any reassessments and, not later than
417 forty-five days after the referral, the holding of any meeting to develop
418 a written individualized family service plan for such eligible child, to
419 ensure a minimally disruptive transition to this state's provision of early
420 intervention services.

421 Sec. 11. Section 27-15 of the general statutes is repealed and the
422 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

423 The Governor [shall] may appoint [the] a military staff that, if so
424 appointed, shall consist of the Adjutant General, who shall be chief of
425 staff with the rank of lieutenant general; the assistant adjutant generals,
426 one of whom shall serve as deputy chief of staff as provided under
427 subsection (c) of section 27-24; [the chief of staff for the Connecticut Air
428 National Guard; an air aide-de-camp with the rank of colonel, who shall
429 be the senior aviation officer of the Connecticut National Guard; a
430 Surgeon General, who shall be the senior medical officer of the National
431 Guard; one aide-de-camp with the rank of colonel from the United

432 States Air Force Reserve; one aide-de-camp with the rank of captain
433 from the United States Naval Reserve; one aide-de-camp with the rank
434 of colonel from the United States Marine Corps Reserve; one aide-de-
435 camp with the rank of colonel from the United States Army Reserve; one
436 aide-de-camp with the rank of lieutenant commander from the United
437 States Coast Guard Reserve; five aides-de-camp, two with the rank of
438 colonel, two with the rank of lieutenant colonel and one with the rank
439 of major, all of whom shall be from the National Guard; and two enlisted
440 aides-de-camp with the rank of sergeant major from the National
441 Guard] and such other officers and senior enlisted noncommissioned
442 officers from the armed forces of the state and the armed forces of the
443 United States as the Governor deems necessary. Members appointed
444 from the armed forces of the state shall retain their federal or state
445 grades and shall remain subject to duty therein. [and, if appointed to
446 such staff in a rank lower than the highest grade attained in federal or
447 state service, shall serve on the staff in their highest recognized grade.
448 Any requirement of this section that any member of the Governor's
449 military staff shall be a member of, or hold any rank in, the National
450 Guard shall be inapplicable whenever the National Guard is in active
451 service with the Army, Navy or Air Force of the United States and at
452 such time the military staff of the Governor may be appointed by the
453 Governor from the organized or unorganized militia, ex-members of the
454 United States Army or Navy or the Connecticut National Guard, or from
455 civil life; and in addition to the active military staff the Governor may,
456 at said Governor's discretion, appoint honorary staff members from the
457 former National Guard or naval militia then on active military duty.]
458 The Governor, or the Adjutant General, at any other time [,] may
459 appoint honorary staff members to the Connecticut National Guard
460 without regard to affiliation who shall serve without the pay, honors,
461 privileges and benefits afforded [the] active [staff] members, including,
462 but not limited to, allowances and tuition waivers. [The majors
463 commandant of the first and second companies Governor's Foot Guards
464 and the Governor's Horse Guards shall be ex-officio members of the
465 Governor's military staff. The Governor shall also appoint the
466 immediate predecessors of such majors commandant to serve as

467 additional ex-officio members. In addition to the above-named officers,
468 the Governor shall appoint three additional staff members, one of whom
469 shall be a colonel or of equivalent naval rank and two of whom shall be
470 majors or of equivalent naval rank.]

471 Sec. 12. Section 27-39a of the general statutes is repealed and the
472 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

473 (a) The state military training facility in Niantic shall be named Camp
474 Nett [at Niantic] in honor of Connecticut Army National Guard Colonel
475 Robert B. Nett, recipient of the congressional medal of honor for his
476 actions on December 14, 1944, during the Second World War.

477 (b) The state military training facility in Windsor Locks shall be
478 named Camp Hartell in honor of Connecticut Army National Guard
479 First Lieutenant Lee R. Hartell, recipient of the congressional medal of
480 honor for his actions on August 27, 1951, during the Korean hostilities.

481 Sec. 13. Section 27-19c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
482 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
483 *October 1, 2026*):

484 There is established an account to be known as the "chargeable
485 transient quarters and billeting account", which shall be a separate,
486 nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required by
487 law to be deposited in the account, which shall include, but not be
488 limited to, proceeds of room service charges at Camp Nett. [at Niantic.]
489 Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Adjutant General for
490 the purposes of billeting members of the armed forces at Camp Nett. [at
491 Niantic.]

492 Sec. 14. Section 27-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
493 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

494 The militia shall be divided into four classes as follows: The
495 unorganized militia, the organized militia, the National Guard and the
496 naval militia. The National Guard for the purposes of this chapter shall

497 consist of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The
498 unorganized militia shall consist of all male citizens and all male
499 residents of the state who have declared their intention to become
500 citizens of the United States, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five
501 years, not exempt from military duty by federal or state laws or by such
502 reasons of physical or mental disabilities as shall be prescribed in
503 general orders or regulations published by the Adjutant General and
504 approved by the Governor and who are not members of the organized
505 militia or of the National Guard or of the naval militia, and all female
506 citizens and all female residents of the state who have declared their
507 intention to become citizens of the United States, between the ages of
508 eighteen and forty-five years, who may voluntarily offer their services
509 to the state. The organized militia shall consist of the Governor's Guards,
510 the State Guard and such other military forces as may be designated by
511 the Governor as commander-in-chief, which may hereafter be organized
512 under the provisions of the laws of this state. The National Guard shall
513 consist of such forces as may be organized and maintained by this state
514 pursuant to the laws and regulations of the United States relating to the
515 National Guard. The naval militia shall consist of such persons as may
516 enlist or be appointed or commissioned therein as a special force for
517 coast protection and as a naval reserve and shall be organized and
518 maintained by this state pursuant to the laws and regulations of the
519 United States relating to the naval militia and may include a marine
520 corps branch of the naval militia subordinate thereto in all matters
521 pertaining to command, discipline or administration. The organized
522 militia, the National Guard, the naval militia and marine corps branch
523 of the naval militia, whenever organized, shall be, for all purposes under
524 the general statutes, the armed forces of the state.

525 Sec. 15. Subsection (c) of section 14-21cc of the 2026 supplement to the
526 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
527 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

528 (c) There is established the "Hispanic-American Veterans of
529 Connecticut" commemorative account which shall be a separate,
530 nonlapsing account. [within the General Fund.] The account shall

531 contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The
532 funds in said account shall be used by Hispanic-American Veterans of
533 Connecticut, Inc. to provide bilingual services and assistance to
534 Connecticut veterans and members of the armed forces. Hispanic-
535 American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. may receive private donations
536 to said account and any such donations shall be deposited in said
537 account.

538 Sec. 16. Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the
539 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

540 The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs_z in conjunction with the
541 Adjutant General_z shall award a ribbon and medal to each (1) veteran
542 who either (A) was a resident of this state at the time he or she was called
543 to active duty for service in time of war, or (B) is domiciled in this state
544 on the date of such award, and (2) former member of any reserve
545 component of the armed forces who was honorably discharged [who]
546 and either (A) was a resident of this state at the time he or she was
547 serving in such reserve component during a period of war, or (B) is
548 domiciled in this state on the date of such award. The commissioner_z in
549 conjunction with the Adjutant General_z shall adopt regulations, in
550 accordance with chapter 54, setting forth the process for designing the
551 ribbon and medal, identifying such veterans and former members who
552 are eligible for the ribbon and medal under this section and establishing
553 procedures for distributing the ribbon and medal to each such eligible
554 veteran and former member. The cost of the ribbons and medals shall
555 be paid from the funds appropriated to the military assistance account
556 within the Military Department. Within existing budgetary resources,
557 awards under this section may be made posthumously for veterans who
558 died on or after November 12, 1918. As used in this section, "veteran",
559 "service in time of war" and "period of war" have the same meanings as
560 provided in subsection (a) of section 27-103.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-100f(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-102l(b)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-128
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-102a
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-41(a)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-1h(a)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-248e(a)
Sec. 11	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	27-15
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-39a
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-19c
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-2
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-21cc(c)
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-73e

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, the introductory language was rewritten, for clarity; and in Section 7(b), "no later" was changed to "[no] not later" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*