



REPORT PURSUANT TO CGS 4-61BB

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF MILITARY TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

Submitted by
Interim Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo
Connecticut Department of Labor

To the Joint Standing Committees on
Veterans' Affairs & Higher Education and Employment Advancement

JANUARY 2022

LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

CGS 4-61bb requires the Labor Commissioner to annually submit a report that shall include the following: (A) The number of service members who applied for a military training evaluation pursuant to section 31-22u, a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied; (B) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was approved; (C) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was denied, and data on the reasons for any such denial; (D) the licensing authority's processing time for applications that are within such licensing authority's purview where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied and are submitted by service members and the average processing time for all applications; (E) information on the licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit; (F) information on whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state; and (G) recommendations on improving the licensing authority's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members, including, but not limited to, the issuance of temporary or provisional licenses, certificates or registrations. The Labor Department shall also include in its report the number of service members who were issued or denied a recommendation for review or a deduction from the hours of apprenticeship training pursuant to section 31-22u.

REPORT

Service Member Applications

During 2021, forty-five service members applied to the Labor Department for a military training evaluation pursuant to section 31-22u, for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit within the agency's purview, where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied. With regard to such applications, forty-five service members were issued a recommendation for review or a deduction from the hours of apprenticeship training pursuant to section 31-22u. No service members were ineligible for review during the calendar year, and none were denied. No military spouse or partner requested a review.

Processing Time

The Labor Department's processing time for service members' applications that are within the agency's purview as a licensing authority, where military training or experience is relevant

and could be applied, was five business days. The average processing time for all applications was also five business days.

Efforts to Inform and Assist Service Members

Labor Department staff in the American Job Centers helped to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit, efforts that are related to promoting apprenticeship and other training opportunities. CT DOL's Office of Apprenticeship Training employs a designated liaison for veterans, accessible as a veterans' point of contact on the Labor Department's Veterans Services and Apprenticeship webpages, the Connecticut State Department of Consumer Protection website and PSI's occupational testing website (a third-party administrator for occupational licensing exams). This liaison reviews DD214s, Joint Services Transcripts and other military certifications for credit.

Effectiveness of Existing Law

The agency's Office of Apprenticeship Training has been reviewing veteran requests for a military training evaluation for 18 years, and has maintained effective relationships with the U.S. Navy Sub Base, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the state Department of Veterans Affairs, the state Office of Higher Education, and other veteran partners. Given these relationships, it is our perspective that existing law appears to be effective in addressing the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state.

Recommendations

As military spouses experience frequent career disruptions because of duty station changes and relocations that may negatively affect their advancement and earnings potential, CT DOL recognizes the need to better support military spouses with the provision of employment services and professional license reciprocity. Connecticut's workforce development system, upon identifying military spouses during intake to ensure the provision of appropriate services and referrals, can help to further educate these job seekers about Conn. Gen. Stats. § 21a-11b and § 19a-14d, which require, respectively, the Department of Consumer Protection and Department of Public Health to issue licenses to military spouses from other states when the military spouse satisfies certain criteria.