



Substitute House Bill No. 5592

Public Act No. 21-79

AN ACT REDEFINING "VETERAN" AND ESTABLISHING A QUALIFYING REVIEW BOARD.

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

Section 1. Section 27-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code, as amended from time to time; (2) "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, [or] released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from, active service in, the armed forces; (3) "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative days during a period of war unless separated from service earlier because of an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or a service-connected disability rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, except that if the period of war lasted less than ninety days, "service in time of war" means service for the entire such period of war unless separated because of any such injury or disability; (4) "period of war"

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has the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as amended from time to time, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and "period of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a combat support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or September 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15, 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf, July 24, 1987, to August 1, 1990; and Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990, and shall include service during such periods with the armed forces of any government associated with the United States; and (5) "qualifying condition" means (A) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by [, or (B)] an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (B) an experience of military sexual trauma, as described in 38 USC 1720D, as amended from time to time, disclosed to [,] an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (C) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

(b) As used in this part, "Veterans Residential Services facility" means the Veterans Residential Services facility in Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides temporary and other supported residential services for qualifying veterans; ["hospital" means any incorporated hospital or tuberculosis sanatorium in the state and any state chronic disease hospital, or hospital for persons with mental illness] "long-term care facility" means a facility that has been federally certified as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility; "Healthcare Center" means the [hospital] long-term care facility in Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs; "veteran" means any veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, who is a

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resident of this state; "eligible dependent" means any parent, wife or husband, or child of a veteran who has no adequate means of support; and "eligible family member" means any parent, brother or sister, wife or husband, or child or children under eighteen years of age, of any veteran whose cooperation in the program is integral to the treatment of the veteran.

(c) Not later than October 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall establish a Qualifying Review Board, which shall review applications of veterans submitted under subsection (d) of this section. Said board shall be part of the Executive Department and shall consist of five voting members who, by education or experience, shall be knowledgeable of veterans benefits and programs and who shall have a demonstrated interest in the concerns of veterans. A majority of the members of the board shall be veterans.

(1) The membership of the board shall consist of the following members:

(A) One member appointed by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in consultation with the chairperson of the Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees, who shall be a member of said board;

(B) The manager of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, or the manager's designee; and

(C) Three members appointed by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

(2) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than December 1, 2021, and shall terminate on November 31, 2023, or November 31, 2024, as applicable, regardless of when the initial appointment was made. Any member of the board may serve more than one term.

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(3) Members first appointed shall have the following terms: (A) The member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees and the manager of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, or the manager's designee, shall initially serve a term of three years, and (B) the three members appointed by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall initially serve a term of two years. Members shall serve a term of four years thereafter. Members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed.

(4) Any vacancy shall be filled by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-9a, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall select the chairperson of the board from among the members of the board. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not later than January 1, 2022.

(6) A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(7) The members of the board shall serve without compensation.

(8) The board shall meet at least monthly or as often as deemed necessary by the chairperson based on the number of applications pending before the board.

(d) (1) Any veteran who receives an other than honorable discharge and who believes such discharge characterization was based on such veteran's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, may file an application for state-based veterans benefits. Such veteran may include evidence supporting his or her claim that such discharge characterization was based on such veteran's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

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(2) The commissioner shall promulgate a standardized application form enumerating the required documentation necessary for filing an application under this subsection and shall make such form available on the Department of Veterans Affairs' Internet web site along with instructions for filing the application.

(3) The commissioner shall promulgate a standardized request for reconsideration form enumerating the required documentation necessary for filing a request for reconsideration pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection and shall make such form available on the Department of Veterans Affairs' Internet web site along with instructions for filing the request for reconsideration.

(4) The board shall review each application submitted and render a recommendation to the commissioner as to whether the veteran's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge. The board shall review each application not later than thirty days after receipt and render a written recommendation to the commissioner not later than thirty days after such review. The commissioner shall issue a written decision not later than ten days after receipt of the board's recommendation, approving or denying the application. If the commissioner approves the application, such veteran shall be eligible for state-based veterans benefits.

(5) A veteran aggrieved by the commissioner's decision may file a request for reconsideration with the commissioner not later than fifteen days after receipt of the commissioner's decision. Such veteran may include supplemental documentation in support of the request for reconsideration. The commissioner shall provide due consideration to the request for reconsideration and render a decision not later than ten days after receipt of such request for reconsideration. The commissioner's decision shall be a final decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs and may be appealed to the Superior Court in

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accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 4-61bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "licensing authority" means the Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Labor Department, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Public Health, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Office of Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut or the Police Officer Standards and Training Council; "service member" means a member of the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran; "armed forces" has the same meaning as set forth in section 27-103; and "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 4a-59 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(c) All open market orders or contracts shall be awarded to (1) the lowest responsible qualified bidder, the qualities of the articles to be supplied, their conformity with the specifications, their suitability to the requirements of the state government and the delivery terms being taken into consideration and, at the discretion of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, life-cycle costs and trade-in or resale value of the articles may be considered where it appears to be in the best interest of the state, (2) the highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, in accordance with the criteria set forth in the bid solicitation for the contract, or (3) the proposer whose proposal is deemed by the awarding authority to be the most advantageous to the state, in accordance with

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the criteria set forth in the request for proposals, including price and evaluation factors. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the contrary, each state agency awarding a contract through competitive negotiation shall include price as an explicit factor in the criteria in the request for proposals and for the contract award. In considering past performance of a bidder for the purpose of determining the "lowest responsible qualified bidder" or the "highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid", the commissioner shall evaluate the skill, ability and integrity of the bidder in terms of the bidder's fulfillment of past contract obligations and the bidder's experience or lack of experience in delivering supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services of the size or amount for which bids have been solicited. In determining the lowest responsible qualified bidder for the purposes of this section, the commissioner may give a price preference of up to ten per cent for (A) the purchase of goods made with recycled materials or the purchase of recyclable or remanufactured products if the commissioner determines that such preference would promote recycling or remanufacturing. As used in this subsection, "recyclable" means able to be collected, separated or otherwise recovered from the solid waste stream for reuse, or for use in the manufacture or assembly of another package or product, by means of a recycling program which is reasonably available to at least seventy-five per cent of the state's population, "remanufactured" means restored to its original function and thereby diverted from the solid waste stream by retaining the bulk of components that have been used at least once and by replacing consumable components and "remanufacturing" means any process by which a product is remanufactured; (B) the purchase of motor vehicles powered by a clean alternative fuel; (C) the purchase of motor vehicles powered by fuel other than a clean alternative fuel and conversion equipment to convert such motor vehicles allowing the vehicles to be powered by either the exclusive use of clean alternative fuel or dual use of a clean alternative fuel and a fuel other than a clean alternative fuel. As used in this subsection, "clean

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alternative fuel" means natural gas, electricity, hydrogen or propane when used as a motor vehicle fuel; or (D) the purchase of goods or services from a micro business, except that, in the case of a veteran-owned micro business, the commissioner may give a price preference of up to fifteen per cent. As used in this subsection, "micro business" means a business with gross revenues not exceeding three million dollars in the most recently completed fiscal year, "veteran-owned micro business" means a micro business of which at least fifty-one per cent of the ownership is held by one or more veterans and "veteran" [means any person (i) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act. All other factors being equal, preference shall be given to supplies, materials and equipment produced, assembled or manufactured in the state and services originating and provided in the state. Except with regard to contracts that may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation funds, if any such bidder refuses to accept, within ten days, a contract awarded to such bidder, such contract may be awarded to the next lowest responsible qualified bidder or the next highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, and so on until such contract is awarded and accepted. Except with regard to contracts that may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation funds, if any such proposer refuses to accept, within ten days, a contract awarded to such proposer, such contract shall be awarded to the next most advantageous proposer, and so on until the contract is awarded and accepted. There shall be a written evaluation made of each bid. This evaluation shall identify the vendors and their respective costs and prices, document the reason why any vendor is deemed to be nonresponsive and recommend a vendor for award. A contract valued at one million dollars or more shall be awarded to a bidder other than

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the lowest responsible qualified bidder or the highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, only with written approval signed by the Commissioner of Administrative Services and by the Comptroller. The commissioner shall post on the department's Internet web site all awards made pursuant to the provisions of this section.

Sec. 4. Subdivision (28) of section 5-196 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(28) "Veteran", when used in this chapter and in section 5-180, [means any person (A) (i) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces of the United States, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces of the United States] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act, and (B) who has performed such service in time of war, as defined in said section, except that the final date for service in time of war during World War II shall be December 31, 1947.

Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(b) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve as a police officer during any period when such person's certification has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection, the council may establish other qualifications for the employment of police

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officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these qualifications. The certification of any police officer who is not employed by a law enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of two years, unless such officer is on leave of absence, shall be considered lapsed. Upon reemployment as a police officer, such officer shall apply for recertification in a manner provided by the council, provided such recertification process requires the police officer to submit to a urinalysis drug test that screens for controlled substances, including, but not limited to, anabolic steroids, and receive a result indicating no presence of any controlled substance not prescribed for the officer. The council shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in another state or, if the applicant is a veteran or a member of the armed forces or the National Guard, as part of training during service in the armed forces, that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in this state, provided such applicant passes an examination or evaluation as required by the council. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 6. Section 8-75 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

As among applicants eligible for occupancy at the rent involved whose needs for housing accommodations are substantially equal, as determined by the developer, preference shall be given to veterans. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in

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the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 7. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 10-5 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in accordance with this section, issue a state high school diploma to any person (1) who successfully completes an examination approved by the commissioner, or (2) who (A) is seventeen years of age and has been officially withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of section 10-184 or is eighteen years of age or older, and (B) presents to the commissioner evidence demonstrating educational qualifications which the commissioner deems equivalent to those required for graduation from a public high school. Application for such a diploma shall be made in the manner and form prescribed by the commissioner provided, at the time of application to take the examination described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the applicant is seventeen years of age or older, has been officially withdrawn from school, in accordance with section 10-184, for at least six months and has been advised, in such manner as may be prescribed by the commissioner, of the other options for high school completion and other available educational programs. For good cause shown, the commissioner may allow a person who is sixteen years of age to apply to take the examination, provided the commissioner may not issue a state high school diploma to such person until the person has attained seventeen years of age.

(b) Application to take or retake the examination described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall be accompanied by a money order or certified check in the nonrefundable amount of thirteen dollars. This amount shall include the fee for the state high school diploma.

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(c) No (1) veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, (2) member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, [(3) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces,] or [(4)] (3) person under twenty-one years of age shall be required to pay the fees described in subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner may waive any fee described in subsection (b) of this section upon the submission of evidence indicating an inability to pay.

Sec. 8. Subsection (i) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(i) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, as amended by this act, [or a person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces,] which veteran or person served during World War II or the Korean hostilities, as described in section 51-49h, or during the Vietnam Era, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, withdrew from high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

(2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of the state for at least fifty consecutive years.

Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

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1, 2021):

(d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any [(A)] veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, [or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and who performed service in time of war,] except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy, which veteran [or person] has been accepted for admission to such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran [or person] is accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination with a regional community-technical college which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution

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on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans [and persons described in subdivision (2) of this subsection] and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional community-technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

Sec. 10. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees at the Connecticut State University System (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such

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armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any [(A)] veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, [or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and who performed service in time of war,] except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy, which veteran [or person] has been accepted for admission to such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran [or person] is accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to such institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination with the university which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal

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employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans [and persons described in subdivision (2) of this subsection] and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at Connecticut state universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

Sec. 11. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, for any [(A)] veteran, as

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defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, [or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and who performed service in time of war,] except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy, which veteran [or person] has been accepted for admission to said institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran [or person] is accepted for admission to said institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to said institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to said institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state who is the dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (8) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was

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killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans [and persons described in subdivision (2) of this subsection] and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at The University of Connecticut. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10a-149d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) An institution of higher education shall award college credit for military occupational specialty training to a member of the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran who enrolls at such institution and has experience in a military occupation recognized by such institution as substituting for or meeting the requirements of a particular course of study. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 10a-161d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) As used in this section:

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(1) "Eligible student without legal immigration status" means any person who (A) is entitled to classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 10a-29, (B) was thirty years of age or younger on June 15, 2012, (C) was sixteen years of age or younger when he or she arrived in the United States and has continuously resided in the United States since such arrival, and (D) has not been convicted of a felony in this state or in another state;

(2) "Eligible veteran without legal immigration status" means any [person who (A) is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States] veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, without legal immigration status, who [(B)] (A) was thirty years of age or younger on June 15, 2012, [(C)] (B) was fifteen years of age or younger when he or she arrived in the United States and has continuously resided in the United States since such arrival, and [(D)] (C) has not been convicted of a felony in this state or in another state;

(3) "Institutional financial aid" means funds set aside from the anticipated tuition revenue of an institution of higher education for the purposes of providing tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student employment for full-time or part-time students who are enrolled in a degree-granting program or a precollege remedial program and who demonstrate substantial financial need; and

(4) "Public institution of higher education" means those institutions of higher education identified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 10a-1.

Sec. 14. Subdivision (19) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021*):

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(19) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95, property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in trust for, (A) any resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who was a member of the armed forces in service in time of war, (B) any resident of this state who was a citizen of the United States at the time of his enlistment and who was in the military or naval service of a government allied or associated with that of the United States during the Second World War and received an honorable discharge therefrom, (C) any resident of this state who served during the Second World War as a member of any armed force of any government signatory to the United Nations Declaration of January 1, 1942, and participated in armed conflict with an enemy of the United States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten years and presents satisfactory evidence of such service, (D) any resident of this state who served as a member of the crew of a merchant vessel during the Second World War and is qualified with respect to such service as a member of the group known as the "American Merchant Marine in ocean-going service during the period of armed conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945", members of which are deemed to be eligible for certain veterans benefits under a determination in the United States Department of Defense, as recorded in the Federal Register of February 1, 1988, provided such resident has received an armed forces discharge certificate from the Department of Defense on the basis of such service, (E) any member of the armed forces who was in service in time of war and is still in the service and by reason of continuous service has not as yet received a discharge, (F) any person who is retired from the armed forces after thirty years of service because he has reached the age limit prescribed by law or because he suffers from mental or physical disability, [(G) any person with a qualifying condition who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and who was in service in time of war,] or [(H)] (G) any person who is serving in the armed services in time of war; or lacking said amount of property in his

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own name, so much of the property belonging to, or held in trust for, his spouse, who is domiciled with him, as is necessary to equal said amount. For the purposes of this subdivision, "veteran", "armed forces" [,] and "service in time of war" [and "qualifying condition"] have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act;

Sec. 15. Subdivision (22) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021*):

(22) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95, property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in trust for, any surviving spouse while such person remains a widow or widower, or a minor child or both, residing in this state, of [(A)] one who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States, or any citizen of the United States who served in the military or naval service of a government allied or associated with the United States, as provided by subdivision (19) of this section, and who has died either during his or her term of service or after [receiving an honorable discharge therefrom] becoming a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, provided such amount shall be three thousand dollars if death was due to service and occurred while on active duty; [, or (B) one with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and who has died after receiving a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable therefrom;]

Sec. 16. Subdivision (25) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021*):

(25) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,

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property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in trust for, a sole surviving parent, while such parent remains a widow or widower, resident of this state, of one [(A)] who has left no widow or widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or died, and who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States as provided by subdivision (19) of this section and has died during his or her term of service or after [receiving an honorable discharge therefrom] becoming a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, provided property belonging to, or held in trust for, such parent of more than one serviceman or servicewoman who has left no widow or widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or died, and who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States as provided in subdivision (19) of this section and has died during his or her term of service shall be subject to an exemption of one thousand dollars for each such serviceman or servicewoman; [or (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has left no widow or widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or died, and who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and has died after receiving a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable therefrom;]

Sec. 17. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 12-81jj of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021*):

(2) Any such veteran submitting a claim for such exemption shall be required to file an application, on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed, which application shall include (A) a certified copy of such veteran's military discharge document, as defined in section 1-219, or (B) in the absence of such certified copy, at least two

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affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the claimant [was honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103] is a veteran as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, provided the assessor may further require such claimant to be examined by such assessor under oath concerning such facts. Each such application shall include a copy of such veteran's federal income tax return, or in the event such a return is not filed such evidence related to income as may be required by the assessor, for the tax year of such veteran ending immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such veteran, and such service shall be performed by such town clerk without remuneration. No assessor, board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as specified in this section has been filed in the office of such town clerk. Any such veteran who has filed for such exemption and received approval for the first time shall be required to file for such exemption biennially thereafter, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

Sec. 18. Section 12-93 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021*):

Any person who claims an exemption from taxation under the provisions of section 12-81, as amended by this act, or 12-82 by reason of service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States shall give notice to the town clerk of the town in which he resides that he is entitled to such exemption. Any person who has performed such service may establish his right to such exemption by exhibiting to the town clerk an honorable discharge, or a certified copy thereof, from such service or, in the absence of such discharge or copy, by appearing before the assessors for an examination under oath,

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supported by two affidavits of disinterested persons, showing that the claimant [so served and received an honorable discharge] is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, or is serving or, if he is unable to appear by reason of such service, he may establish such right, until such time as he appears personally and exhibits his discharge or copy, by forwarding to the town clerk annually a written statement, signed by the commanding officer of his unit, ship or station or by some other appropriate officer, or where such claimant is currently serving in an active theater of war or hostilities, by the presentation of a notarized statement of a parent, guardian, spouse or legal representative of such claimant, stating that he is personally serving and is unable to appear in person by reason of such service, which statement shall be received before the assessment day of the town wherein the exemption is claimed. The assessors shall report to the town clerk all claims so established. Any person claiming exemption by reason of the service of a relative as a soldier, sailor, marine or member of the Coast Guard or Air Force may establish his right thereto by at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing the service of such relative, his honorable discharge or death in service, and the relationship of the claimant to him; and the assessors may further require such person to be examined by them under oath concerning such facts. The town clerk of the town where the honorable discharge or certified copy thereof and each affidavit is originally presented for record shall record such discharge or certified copy or affidavits thereof in full and shall list the names of such claimants and such service shall be performed by the town clerk without remuneration therefor. Thereafter if any person entitled to such exemption changes his legal residence, the town clerk in the town of former residence and in which such honorable discharge or certified copy thereof or any such affidavit in respect to such person was originally presented for record shall, upon request and payment of a fee by such person to said town of former residence in an amount determined by the town treasurer as necessary to cover the cost of such procedure, prepare and mail to the town in which such person resides,

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a copy of the record of such discharge or certified copy thereof or affidavits, or he may establish his right to such exemption in the town in which he resides by exhibiting to the town clerk thereof the original discharge or a certified copy thereof or such affidavits. Said clerk shall take therefrom sufficient data to satisfy the exemption requirements of the general statutes and shall record the same and shall note the town where the original complete recording of discharge papers was made. No board of assessors or board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of the town clerk, provided, if any claim for exemption has been allowed by any board of assessors or board of assessment appeals prior to July 1, 1923, the provisions of this section shall not apply to such claim. Each claim granted prior to July 1, 1923, shall be recorded with those presented subsequent thereto, and a list of such names, alphabetically arranged, shall be furnished the assessors by the town clerk.

Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 12-217pp of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;

(2) "Control", with respect to a corporation, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty per cent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of such corporation entitled to vote. "Control", with respect to a trust, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of fifty per cent or more of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of such trust. The ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital or profits interest in a partnership, limited liability company or association or of a beneficial

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interest in a trust shall be determined in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock provided in Section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, other than paragraph (3) of said Section 267(c);

(3) "Full-time job" means a job in which an employee is required to work at least thirty-five hours per week for not less than forty-eight weeks in a calendar year. "Full-time job" does not include a temporary or seasonal job;

(4) "Income year" means, with respect to entities subject to the insurance premiums tax under chapter 207, the corporation business tax under this chapter, the utility companies tax under chapter 212 or the income tax under chapter 229, the income year as determined under each of said chapters, as the case may be;

(5) "New employee" means a person who resides in this state and is hired by a taxpayer on or after January 1, 2012, and prior to January 1, 2014, to fill a new job. "New employee" does not include a person who was employed in this state by a related person with respect to a taxpayer during the prior twelve months;

(6) "New job" means a job that did not exist in this state prior to a taxpayer's application to the commissioner for certification under this section for a job expansion tax credit, is filled by a new, qualifying or veteran employee, and (A) is a full-time job, or (B) in the case of a qualifying employee under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (7) of this subsection, is a job in which an employee is required to work at least twenty hours per week for not less than forty-eight weeks in a calendar year;

(7) "Qualifying employee" means a new employee who, at the time of hiring by the taxpayer:

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(A) (i) Is receiving unemployment compensation, or (ii) has exhausted unemployment compensation benefits and has not had an intervening full-time job; or

(B) Is (i) receiving vocational rehabilitation services from the Department of Aging and Disability Services, (ii) receiving employment services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or (iii) participating in employment opportunities and day services, as defined in section 17a-226, operated or funded by the Department of Developmental Services;

(8) "Related person" means (A) a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by the taxpayer, (B) an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, (C) a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, or (D) a member of the same controlled group as the taxpayer;

(9) "Taxpayer" means a person that (A) has been in business for at least twelve consecutive months prior to the date of the taxpayer's application to the commissioner for certification under this section for a job expansion tax credit, and (B) is subject to tax under this chapter or chapter 207, 212 or 229; and

(10) "Veteran employee" means a new employee who, at the time of hiring by the taxpayer, is (A) a member of [, was honorably discharged from or released under honorable conditions from active service in] the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, or (B) a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 20. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (63) of section 12-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

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thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(D) The Department of Revenue Services may issue a farmer tax exemption permit to a farmer, notwithstanding the fact that, in the farmer's immediately preceding taxable year, such farmer's gross income from agricultural production engaged in as a trade or business may have been less than two thousand five hundred dollars, provided (i) such farmer purchased, during such farmer's current or immediately preceding taxable year, an agricultural trade or business from a seller who was issued a farmer tax exemption permit by such department at the time of such purchase and such agricultural production shall be carried on as a trade or business by such purchaser during the period commencing upon the purchase and ending two years after the date of purchase. Such purchaser shall be liable for the tax otherwise imposed, during the period commencing upon such purchase and ending two years after the date of purchase, if such agricultural production is not carried on as a trade or business by such purchaser during the period commencing upon such purchase and ending two years after the date of purchase; or (ii) such farmer is a veteran who has never owned or leased property for the purpose of commercial agricultural production or who has owned or leased property for the purpose of commercial agricultural production for less than two years. Such veteran farmer shall be liable for the tax otherwise imposed, during the period commencing upon issuance of a farmer tax exemption permit pursuant to this subparagraph and ending two years after the date of such issuance, if such agricultural production is not carried on as a trade or business by such veteran farmer during the period commencing upon such issuance and ending two years after the date of such issuance. As used in this subparagraph, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in

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the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 14-20b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any veteran or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such veteran or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle, including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as a trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates, which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle. As used in this subsection, ["member of the armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103 and "veteran" means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 22. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not previously

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held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or who has not operated a motor vehicle during the preceding two years, the commissioner shall require the applicant to demonstrate personally to the commissioner, a deputy or a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, that the applicant is a proper person to operate motor vehicles of the class for which such applicant has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the mechanism of the motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him or her and has satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant for a class D motor vehicle operator's license may be administered in such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio, electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be administered in English, Spanish or any language spoken at home by at least one per cent of the state's population, according to statistics prepared by the United States Census Bureau, based on the most recent decennial census. Each such knowledge test shall include a question concerning highway work zone safety and the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d. Each such knowledge test shall include not less than one question concerning distracted driving, the use of mobile telephones and electronic devices by motor vehicle operators or the responsibilities of motor vehicle operators under section 14-296aa. If any such applicant has held a license from a state, territory or possession of the United States where a similar examination is required, the commissioner may waive part or all of the examination. If any such applicant is (A) a veteran who applies not later than two years after the date of discharge from the military and who, prior to such discharge, held a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has applied, or (B) a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who currently holds a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the examination, except in the case of commercial motor vehicle licenses,

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the commissioner shall only waive the driving skills test for such applicant who meets the conditions set forth in 49 CFR 383.77. For the purposes of this subsection, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act. When the commissioner is satisfied as to the ability and competency of any applicant, the commissioner may issue to such applicant a license, either unlimited or containing such limitations as the commissioner deems advisable, and specifying the class of motor vehicles which the licensee is eligible to operate.

Sec. 23. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 14-36h of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to have his or her status as a veteran contained on his or her motor vehicle operator's license or identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such request, verify whether such person is a veteran and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall indicate such person's status as a veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license or identity card issued to such person upon original issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.

(f) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity, unless the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate of civil union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction

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pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name; and (2) "veteran" [means (A) any person honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act, [(B)] or any former member of the armed forces who is entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, or, but for age, would be so entitled. [, or (C) any person with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.]

Sec. 24. Subsection (c) of section 14-50 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(c) The commissioner shall waive any operator's license or registration fee, including any renewal fee, in the case of any person in the active service of the armed forces of the United States who was a legal resident of Connecticut at the time of his or her induction; and for one licensing period to any person [(1) honorably separated from such service, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has separated from such service other than with a bad conduct characterization or dishonorably] who is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, which person applies for such operator's license or registration within two years following the date of separation and was a legal resident of Connecticut at the time of his or her induction. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this subsection.

Sec. 25. Section 14-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

"Disabled veteran", as used in this section, means (1) [(A)] any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who

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performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, [or (B) any person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces, as defined in said section, and who performed service in time of war,] and (2) (A) one or both of whose legs or arms or parts thereof have been amputated or the use of which has been lost, (B) who is blind, paraplegic or hemiplegic, or (C) who has traumatic brain injury, any such disability described in subdivision (2) of this section being certified as service-connected by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, upon application of any disabled veteran accompanied by such certificate of United States Department of Veterans Affairs, shall issue without charge a special number plate or set of plates in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 14-21b to be attached to a passenger motor vehicle owned or operated by such disabled veteran and an identification card to be used in connection therewith. The card shall identify the disabled veteran and the motor vehicle and shall state that such disabled veteran is qualified to receive the card, that the card, plate or plates shall be returned to the commissioner if the registration of the motor vehicle is cancelled or transferred and that the card is for the exclusive use of the disabled veteran to whom it is issued, is not transferable and will be revoked if presented by any other person or if any privilege granted under this section is abused. If not so revoked, the card shall be renewable every four years at the time of registration of motor vehicles. No penalty shall be imposed for the overtime parking of any motor vehicle bearing a number plate issued under this section when it has been so parked by the disabled veteran to whom the plate and an identification card were issued or by any person operating such vehicle when accompanied by such disabled veteran, provided the length of time for which such vehicle may remain parked at any one location shall not exceed twenty-four hours. The surviving spouse of a disabled veteran issued such special registration may retain any such registration and number plates

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without charge for his or her lifetime or until such time as he or she remarries.

Sec. 26. Subsection (a) of section 17b-28i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) To the extent permissible by federal law, the Commissioner of Social Services shall disregard federal Aid and Attendance pension benefits granted to a veteran or the surviving spouse of such veteran when determining income eligibility for the state's Medicare savings, medical assistance and energy assistance programs administered under section 17b-2. As used in this subsection, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 27. Section 19a-179 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, concerning (1) the methods and conditions for licensure and certification of the operations, facilities and equipment enumerated in section 19a-177, (2) complaint procedures for the public and any emergency medical service organization, and (3) exemption of members of the armed forces or the National Guard or veterans with appropriate military training, including, but not limited to, members of the armed forces or the National Guard or veterans with a designation by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and veterans or members of the United States Navy and Coast Guard, from training and testing requirements for emergency medical technician licensure and

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certification. Such regulations shall be in conformity with the policies and standards established by the commissioner. Such regulations shall require that, as an express condition of the purchase of any business holding a primary service area, the purchaser shall agree to abide by any performance standards to which the purchased business was obligated pursuant to its agreement with the municipality.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 28. Subsections (j) and (k) of section 20-206mm of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(j) The Commissioner of Public Health shall issue an emergency medical technician certification to an applicant who is a member of the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran and who (1) presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant holds a current certification as a person entitled to perform similar services under a different designation by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, or (2) satisfies the regulations promulgated pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-179, as amended by this act. Such applicant shall be exempt from any written or practical examination requirement for certification.

(k) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

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Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 27-108 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) Any veteran who meets active military, naval or air service requirements, as described in 38 USC 101, as amended from time to time, may apply for admission to the Veterans Residential Services facility or Healthcare Center; and any such veteran who has no adequate means of support, and who, from disease, wounds or accident, needs medical or surgical care and treatment or who has become mentally ill, may be admitted to any hospital and receive necessary food, clothing, care and treatment therein, at the expense of the state, unless other funds or means of payment are available. Whenever a person is admitted to a hospital, such person shall be asked if he or she is a veteran. Before a hospital submits a bill for services pursuant to this section, such hospital shall take sufficient steps to determine that no other funds or means of payment are available to cover the cost of services rendered to the veteran. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall make available to hospitals a list of payment options and benefits available to cover hospital costs of veterans. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 30. Section 27-109 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

Any hospital, upon request of the commissioner, shall furnish any veteran, determined by the commissioner to be entitled to admission thereto, necessary food, clothing, care and treatment therein at the expense of the state, unless other funds or means of payment are

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available, and such veteran shall have preference for admission into such hospital. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 31. Section 27-118 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

When any veteran dies, not having sufficient estate to pay the necessary expenses of the veteran's last sickness and burial, as determined by the commissioner after consultation with the probate court for the district in which the veteran resided, the state shall pay the sum of one thousand eight hundred dollars toward such funeral expenses, and the burial shall be in some cemetery or plot not used exclusively for the burial of the pauper dead, and the same amount shall be paid if the body is cremated, but no amount shall be paid for the expenses for burial or cremation unless claim therefor is made within one year from the date of death, except that in cases of death occurring abroad, such claim may be made within one year after the remains of such veteran have been interred in this country. No provision of this section shall prevent the payment of the sum above named for the burial of any person, otherwise entitled to the same, on account of such burial being made outside the limits of this state. Upon satisfactory proof by the person who has paid or provided for the funeral or burial expense to the commissioner of the identity of the deceased, the time and place of the deceased's death and burial and the approval thereof by the commissioner, said sum of one thousand eight hundred dollars shall be paid by the Comptroller to the person who has paid the funeral or burial expense or, upon assignment by such person, to the funeral director

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who has provided the funeral. Whenever the Comptroller has lawfully paid any sum toward the expenses of the burial of any deceased veteran and it afterwards appears that the deceased left any estate, the Comptroller may present a claim on behalf of the state against the estate of such deceased veteran for the sum so paid, and the claim shall be a preferred claim against such estate and shall be paid to the Treasurer of the state. The commissioner, upon the advice of the Attorney General, may make application for administration upon the estate of any such deceased veteran if no other person authorized by law makes such application within sixty days after such payment has been made by the Comptroller. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 32. Subsection (a) of section 27-122b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) As used in this section, "veteran" means any person [(1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from, active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized pursuant to an Act of Congress; (2)] who is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who (1) has completed at least twenty years of qualifying service, as described in and computed under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, in the Connecticut National Guard; or [(3) who] (2) was killed in action, or who died as a result of accident or illness sustained while performing active service, in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard

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or any women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized pursuant to an Act of Congress, or in the Connecticut National Guard.

Sec. 33. Section 27-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

Any veteran who is a citizen of this state and who, through disability or other causes incident to service in the armed forces in time of war, is in need of temporary financial assistance may be provided for by the commissioner by a method similar to that provided in section 27-82, the amount and continuance of such assistance to be discretionary with the commissioner. The widow, widower and each child, parent, brother or sister of any member of the armed forces, who died while in such active service, may be assisted by the commissioner if such person or persons are without sufficient means of support by reason of the death of such member of the armed forces. In carrying out his or her duties under the provisions of this section, the commissioner is directed to cooperate with such federal agencies as may aid in securing prompt and suitable treatment, care and relief of any such member of the armed forces or his or her dependents. The records of the agencies of the state shall be placed at the disposal of the commissioner and such agencies are directed to cooperate with and to assist the commissioner in carrying out his or her duties. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 34. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

All money so paid to and received by the American Legion shall be

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expended by it in furnishing temporary income; subsistence items such as food, wearing apparel, shelter and related expenses; medical or surgical aid or care or relief (1) to, or in bearing the funeral expenses of, soldiers, sailors or marines (A) (i) who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, in any branch of the military service of the United States, including the Connecticut National Guard, or (ii) who were engaged in any of the wars waged by the United States during said periods in the forces of any government associated with the United States, (B) [(i)] who [have been honorably discharged therefrom or honorably released from active service therein, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who have received discharges other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service therein] are or were veterans, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, and (C) who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at the time of entering said armed forces of the United States, including the Connecticut National Guard, or of any such government, (2) to their spouses who are living with them, (3) to their widows or widowers who were living with them at the time of death, or (4) to dependent children under eighteen years of age, who may be in need of the same. All such payments shall be made by the American Legion under authority of its bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the procedure for proof of eligibility for such aid, provided payments made for the care and treatment of any person entitled to the benefits provided for herein, at any hospital receiving aid from the General Assembly unless special care and treatment are required, shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the sum expended for the care or treatment of such person at any other place than a state-aided hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost of supporting such person at the Healthcare Center in Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, unless special care and treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by the treasurer of such organization may be paid therefor. Upon the completion of the trust provided for in section 27-138, the principal fund shall revert to the State Treasury.

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Sec. 35. Subsection (b) of section 29-161q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(b) No person hired or otherwise engaged to perform work as a security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, shall perform the duties of a security officer prior to being licensed as a security officer by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, except as provided in subsection (h) of this section. Each applicant for a license shall complete a minimum of eight hours training in the following areas: Basic first aid, search and seizure laws and regulations, use of force, basic criminal justice and public safety issues. The commissioner shall waive such training for any person who, while serving in the armed forces or the National Guard, or if such person is a veteran, within two years of such person's discharge from the armed forces, presents proof that such person has completed military training that is equivalent to the training required by this subsection, and, if applicable, such person's military discharge document or a certified copy thereof. For the purposes of this subsection, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces,] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act, and "military discharge document" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-219. The training shall be approved by the commissioner in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-161x. The commissioner may not grant a license to any person who has been decertified as a police officer or otherwise had his or her certification canceled, revoked or refused renewal pursuant to subsection (c) of section 7-294d.

(1) On and after October 1, 2008, no person or employee of an association, corporation or partnership shall conduct such training without the approval of the commissioner except as provided in

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subdivision (2) of this subsection. Application for such approval shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the commissioner and accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. Such application shall be made under oath and shall contain the applicant's name, address, date and place of birth, employment for the previous five years, education or training in the subjects required to be taught under this subsection, any convictions for violations of the law and such other information as the commissioner may require by regulation adopted pursuant to section 29-161x to properly investigate the character, competency and integrity of the applicant. No person shall be approved as an instructor for such training who has been convicted of a felony, a sexual offense or a crime of moral turpitude or who has been denied approval as a security service licensee, a security officer or instructor in the security industry by any licensing authority, or whose approval has been revoked or suspended. The term for such approval shall not exceed two years. Not later than two business days after a change of address, any person approved as an instructor in accordance with this section shall notify the commissioner of such change and such notification shall include both the old and new addresses.

(2) If a security officer training course described in this subsection is approved by the commissioner on or before September 30, 2008, the instructor of such course shall have until April 1, 2009, to apply for approval as an instructor in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) Each person approved as an instructor in accordance with this section may apply for the renewal of such approval on a form approved by the commissioner, accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. Such form may require the disclosure of any information necessary for the commissioner to determine whether the instructor's suitability to serve as an instructor has changed since the issuance of the prior approval. The term of such renewed approval shall not exceed two years.

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Sec. 36. Subsection (c) of section 31-3w of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(c) (1) When contacted by a veteran who is in need of employment or work force development services, the department shall (A) determine whether the veteran resides closer to a work force development board facility with a veterans unit than to a department facility offering such employment or work force development assistance and, if so, provide the veteran with contact information for the work force development board, and (B) provide a veteran who expresses an interest in advanced manufacturing, as defined in section 31-11ss, as amended by this act, with information on the Military to Machinists program operated pursuant to section 31-11ss, as amended by this act, if such veteran may be eligible for services from such program.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, "veteran" [means any person (A) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 37. Section 31-3zz of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

The Labor Commissioner shall establish a Special Operations Resource Network to serve as a clearinghouse for veterans and members of the armed forces and National Guard who have acquired, as part of their military training, knowledge, experience or a set of skills most compatible with certain professional opportunities. The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and the Adjutant General, shall develop a database in which

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such veterans and members are categorized based on the types of military training received and cross-referenced against certain professional opportunities for purposes of pairing any such veteran or member with any such professional opportunity. Any veteran or member of the armed forces or National Guard may apply for inclusion in such database by submitting (1) evidence of the military training received by such veteran or member describing the particular knowledge, experience or set of skills acquired, and (2) if such applicant is a veteran, such veteran's military discharge document or a certified copy thereof. The Labor Commissioner shall evaluate any such application, include such veteran or member in such database, and so categorize such veteran or member as described in this section. The Labor Commissioner shall update such database weekly and shall publish such database on the Labor Department's Internet web site. Any person interested in hiring any such veteran or member included in such database shall contact the department through a dedicated telephone number and the department shall facilitate contact between such person and such veteran or member. For the purposes of this section, [(A)] "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces, (B)] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act, and [(C)] "military discharge document" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-219.

Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 31-11ss of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Advanced manufacturing" means a manufacturing process that makes extensive use of computer, high-precision or information technologies integrated with a high-performance work force in a

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production system capable of furnishing a heterogeneous mix of products in small or large volumes with either the efficiency of mass production or the flexibility of custom manufacturing in order to respond quickly to customer demands. "Advanced manufacturing" includes newly developed methods to manufacture existing products and the manufacture of new products emerging from new advanced technologies;

(2) "Eligible business" means a business that (A) has operations in Connecticut, (B) has been registered to conduct business for not less than twelve months, and (C) is in good standing with respect to the payment of all state and local taxes. "Eligible business" does not include the state or any political subdivision thereof;

(3) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-22a;

(4) "Public institution of higher education" means any of the institutions of higher education identified in subdivision (2) of section 10a-1;

(5) "Qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program" means a for-credit or noncredit sub-baccalaureate advanced manufacturing certificate program offered by a public institution of higher education or a private occupational school in which at least seventy-five per cent of the graduates of such certificate program are employed in a field related to or requiring such certificate in the year following graduation; and

(6) "Veteran" [means any person (A) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces]

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has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 31-11tt of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) Not later than October 1, 2019, the work force development board for the southwest work force development region of the state shall develop and operate a pilot program to be known as the Veterans Platform to Employment Program. The program shall provide training and subsidized employment for veterans who have experienced long-term unemployment in a similar manner to the Platform to Employment Program currently operated by such board. The pilot program shall provide veterans in a region served by the program with (1) a preparatory program that includes services such as skills assessments, career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs and coaching, and (2) employment assistance that includes identifying positions at local employers and providing subsidies to employers that hire veterans for trial work experiences that may lead to continued employment. The pilot program may offer additional services to assist veterans, including personal and family support services and financial counseling. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (A) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 40. Section 31-22u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

Any member of the armed forces or National Guard or any veteran,

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within two years of such veteran's discharge from the armed forces, may submit an application for military training evaluation to the Labor Department program of apprentice training set forth in section 31-22q. Such application shall include (1) evidence of satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction as part of military training that is equivalent in content and quality to that required for a specific trade in this state, and (2) if such applicant is a veteran, such veteran's military discharge document or a certified copy thereof. The Labor Commissioner shall evaluate any such application and determine whether the applicant's military training may be substituted for all or part of the term of an apprenticeship program registered with the Labor Department for a specific trade. If the commissioner determines that the applicant's military training is equivalent to the training required for completion of such apprenticeship program, the commissioner shall issue such applicant a recommendation for review by the appropriate examining board established under section 20-331. Presentation of such recommendation, pursuant to section 20-333, shall allow such applicant to sit for any licensure examination without participation in an apprenticeship program. If the commissioner determines that the applicant's military training is equivalent to part of the training required for completion of an apprenticeship program, such applicant's hours of qualified military training, as determined by the commissioner, shall be deducted from the hours of apprenticeship training required for the specific trade provided (A) such applicant completes the minimum number of hours of apprenticeship training required under federal law, and (B) prior to implementation of this provision, the Labor Department obtains concurrence with such provision from the federal office of apprenticeship pursuant to 29 CFR 29.13(b)(9). For the purposes of this section, [(i)] "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces, (ii)] and "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act, and [(iii)] "military discharge document" has the same meaning as

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provided in section 1-219.

Sec. 41. Section 51-49h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) Any judge of the Superior Court, the Appellate Court or the Supreme Court who first commenced service as a judge prior to January 1, 1981, may elect to receive the retirement salary provided under subsection (b) of section 51-50. The surviving spouse of a deceased judge who has made an election under this section shall receive the allowances provided under subsection (b) of section 51-51.

(b) Any such judge, any family support magistrate or any compensation commissioner who is a veteran may receive credit for retirement purposes for military service, if such judge, family support magistrate or compensation commissioner makes retirement contributions for each month of military service equal to one-twelfth of five per cent of his first year's salary as a judge, family support magistrate or compensation commissioner multiplied by the total number of months of such military service, except that (1) no retirement contribution shall be made for service as a prisoner of war, and (2) no credit shall be allowed for military service to any such judge, family support magistrate or compensation commissioner who has served less than ten years as a judge, family support magistrate or compensation commissioner, nor for more than fifty per cent of such military service or three years, whichever is less. Service credit for military service for retirement purposes other than service as a prisoner of war shall not be granted until payment of contributions is completed. Any application for military service credit under this section for service as a prisoner of war shall be accompanied by sufficient proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that such judge, family support magistrate or compensation commissioner is a former prisoner of war.

(c) For purposes of this section: (1) "Armed forces" means the United

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States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force; (2) "veteran" [means any person honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act; (3) "military service" shall be service during World War II, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; the Korean hostilities, June 27, 1950, to October 27, 1953; and the Vietnam era, January 1, 1964, to July 1, 1975, and shall include service as a prisoner of war.

Sec. 42. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 54-56e of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) There shall be a pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation of persons accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or violations for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, which crimes or violations are not of a serious nature. Upon application by any such person for participation in the program, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file sealed.

(b) The court may, in its discretion, invoke such program on motion of the defendant or on motion of a state's attorney or prosecuting attorney with respect to a defendant (1) who, the court believes, will probably not offend in the future, (2) who has no previous record of conviction of a crime or of a violation of section 14-196, subsection (c) of section 14-215, section 14-222a, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 14-224, section 14-227a or 14-227m or subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, and (3) who states under oath, in open court or before any person designated by the clerk and duly authorized to administer oaths, under the penalties of perjury, (A) that the defendant has never had such program invoked on the defendant's behalf or that the defendant was charged with a misdemeanor or a motor vehicle violation for which a term of imprisonment of one year or less may be imposed and ten or more years

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have passed since the date that any charge or charges for which the program was invoked on the defendant's behalf were dismissed by the court, or (B) with respect to a defendant who is a veteran, that the defendant has not had such program invoked in the defendant's behalf more than once previously, provided the defendant shall agree thereto and provided notice has been given by the defendant, on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, to the victim or victims of such crime or motor vehicle violation, if any, by registered or certified mail and such victim or victims have an opportunity to be heard thereon. Any defendant who makes application for participation in such program shall pay to the court an application fee of thirty-five dollars. No defendant shall be allowed to participate in the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation more than two times. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

Sec. 43. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 54-56i of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) There is established a pretrial drug education and community service program for persons charged with a violation of section 21a-267, 21a-279 or 21a-279a. The pretrial drug education and community service program shall include a fifteen-session drug education program and a substance abuse treatment program of not less than fifteen sessions, and the performance of community service.

(b) Upon application by any such person for participation in such program, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file sealed, and such person shall pay to the court of an application fee of one hundred dollars and a nonrefundable evaluation fee of one hundred fifty dollars. A person shall be ineligible for participation in such pretrial

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drug education and community service program if such person has twice previously participated in (1) the pretrial drug education program established under the provisions of this section in effect prior to October 1, 2013, (2) the community service labor program established under section 53a-39c, (3) the pretrial drug education and community service program established under this section, or (4) any of such programs, except that the court may allow a person who has twice previously participated in such programs to participate in the pretrial drug education and community service program one additional time, for good cause shown. The evaluation and application fee imposed under this subsection shall be credited to the pretrial account established under section 54-56k.

(c) The court, after consideration of the recommendation of the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney in charge of the case, may, in its discretion, grant such application. If the court grants such application, the court shall refer such person (1) to the Court Support Services Division for confirmation of the eligibility of the applicant, (2) to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for evaluation and determination of an appropriate drug education or substance abuse treatment program for the first or second time such application is granted, and (3) to a state-licensed substance abuse treatment program for evaluation and determination of an appropriate substance abuse treatment program for the third time such application is granted, except that, if such person is a veteran, the court may refer such person to the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, for any such evaluation and determination. For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (d) of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

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Sec. 44. Subsection (a) of section 54-56l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) There shall be a supervised diversionary program for persons with psychiatric disabilities, or persons who are veterans, who are accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or violations for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, which crimes or violations are not of a serious nature. For the purposes of this section, (1) "psychiatric disability" means a mental or emotional condition, other than solely substance abuse, that (A) has substantial adverse effects on the defendant's ability to function, and (B) requires care and treatment, and (2) "veteran" means a [person] veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who is found, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, to have a mental health condition that is amenable to treatment. [, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103.]

Sec. 45. Section 54-56n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) The Judicial Branch shall collect data on the number of members of the armed forces, veterans and nonveterans who, on and after January 1, 2016, apply for and are granted admission or are denied entry into (1) the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation established pursuant to section 54-56e, (2) the supervised diversionary program established pursuant to section 54-56l, or (3) the pretrial drug education and community service program established pursuant to section 54-56i. Data compiled pursuant to this section shall be based on information provided by applicants at the time of application to any such program. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the

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same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

(b) Not later than January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Judicial Branch shall submit a report detailing the data compiled for the previous calendar year pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs and the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

Approved June 28, 2021