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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6316**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVALUATION OF MILITARY TRAINING EVALUATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill extends, from two to five years, the period of time after a veteran's service discharge during which he or she may apply to the Department of Labor (DOL) for a military training evaluation. Under current law, the DOL commissioner must determine if the applicant's military training partially or entirely satisfies certain apprenticeship programs' training requirements (see BACKGROUND). The bill instead requires him to make these determinations jointly with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Consumer Protection commissioners. It also allows each commissioner to appoint a designee to make the determinations on his or her behalf.

Under existing law, a "veteran" is anyone discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of federal law).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Military Training Evaluations***

Certain occupational examining boards generally require applicants to complete apprenticeship programs before sitting for licensing examinations. Armed forces or National Guard members and certain veterans may to apply to the DOL apprentice training program for a military training evaluation.

If the applicant's military training is equivalent to completing an

apprenticeship program, the commissioner must issue the applicant a “recommendation for review.” A recommendation for review allows the applicant, even if he or she has not completed an apprenticeship program, to sit for licensing examinations required by certain boards, including the:

1. Electrical Work Board;
2. Heating, Piping, Cooling and Sheet Metal Work Board;
3. Plumbing and Piping Work Board;
4. Elevator Installation, Repair and Maintenance Board;
5. Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Board; and
6. Automotive Glass Work and Flat Glass Work Board.

If the applicant's military training is deemed equivalent to part of an apprenticeship program's required training, the applicant's qualified hours of military training must be deducted from the required apprentice training hours if certain federal requirements are satisfied.

A recommendation for review additionally waives, depending on the trade, the (1) \$90 or \$150 application fee and (2) initial \$150 or \$120 contractor's license fee (CGS §§ 20-333 & 20-355).

### ***Related Bills***

SB 413, favorably reported by the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, requires 27 state agencies and departments to waive initial occupational licensing fees for veterans.

HB 5592, favorably reported by the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, expands the general definition of “veteran” under state law to include those released with an other than honorable discharge based on specified qualifying conditions (e.g., military sexual trauma experience, a qualifying mental health condition, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression), as determined under the bill. In doing so, it expands eligibility for any statutory programs or benefits that

reference this definition.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)