



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 288

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 916

Senate, April 6, 2021

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. CABRERA of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR CERTIFIED COPIES OF VITAL RECORDS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES FUND.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 7-74 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (c) (1) The fee for one certified copy of a certificate of death for any
5 deceased person who was a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of
6 section 27-103, shall be waived when such copy is requested by a
7 spouse, child or parent of such deceased veteran.

8 (2) The fee for a certified copy of any vital record shall be waived
9 when such copy is requested by a person in connection with an
10 application for aid from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, as
11 established under section 27-138, provided such person presents a copy
12 of the application for aid from said fund at the time of requesting such

13 waiver.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	7-74(c)

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Loss	Less than \$50,000	Less than \$50,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Loss	Less than \$50,000 cumulatively	Less than \$50,000 cumulatively

Explanation

The bill waives the fee for a copy of any vital record sought in connection with an application for benefits from the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund (SSMF). This results in a potential revenue loss of less than \$50,000 annually to both the General Fund and cumulatively to various municipalities.¹

Each year, approximately 2,000 applications are submitted for SSMF benefits. Certified copies of vital records may be issued by the state Department of Public Health, or by an appropriate municipality's Office of Vital Records. Fees collected by DPH for certified copies of vital records are deposited into the state's General Fund. Fee revenue generated by municipalities supports those respective municipalities.

¹Under existing state law, the spouses, children, and parents of a deceased veteran do not have to pay a fee to either the state, or to a municipal office of vital records, for a certified copy of a veteran's death certificate. The fee for certified copies of the following vital records made in connection with a SSMF application would be eliminated under the bill: marriage, civil union, birth, and fetal death

Municipal vital records offices are located in each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 916*****AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR CERTIFIED COPIES OF VITAL RECORDS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES FUND.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires municipalities and the Department of Public Health (DPH) to waive the fee for certified copies of vital records related to a person's application for assistance from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, if the person provides a copy of his or her application. Existing law allows a deceased veteran's spouse, child, or parent to receive one certified copy of a death certificate for free.

By law, vital records are a certificate of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage (CGS § 7-36). The fee for a municipal certified copy of a long form birth certificate is \$20 and a DPH-issued one is \$30. A certified copy of a marriage, civil union, or death certificate is \$20 at both the state and municipal levels (CGS § 7-74(a) & (b)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

BACKGROUND***Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund***

By law, this fund provides temporary aid (e.g., food, clothing, and medical and surgical aid), general care and relief, or burial expenses to needy honorably discharged in-state wartime veterans or certain family members (CGS § 27-138 et seq.).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)