

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sSB-917

AN ACT EXEMPTING VETERANS' FEDERAL PENSION BENEFITS FROM INCOME ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill will result in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with disregarding any federal non-service-connected pension benefits for veterans or their surviving spouses for purposes of determining income eligibility. By reducing the income that is currently counted towards income limits, the bill increases the number of individuals who could be eligible under the following DSS programs: Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Program, State Administered General Assistance, Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, State Supplement (Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled), and energy assistance.

For context, there were 167,000 veterans in Connecticut on 9/30/20. The number of veterans participating in the assistance programs specified by the bill is unknown. The impact of the bill is dependent on: (1) the number of veterans participating in each DSS program, (2) the benefit amount being disregarded, and (3) the income limits of the program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of applicable veterans in DSS programs and the amount of benefits being disregarded.