

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-916

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

Title: FUND.

Vote Date: 3/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/23/2021

File No.: 288

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill was introduced to waive the fee for certified copies of vital records for veterans. Under current law, municipalities may charge a fee for individuals to obtain a copy of vital records. Veterans apply to the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund when they are experiencing financial hardship, but are required to submit vital records along with their application. This bill will waive that fee so that acquiring needed documentation does not create an additional financial burden.

***Proposed Substitute Language: In line 11, after "section 27-138" insert ", provided such person presents a copy of the application for aid from said fund at the time of requesting such waiver" because it provides evidence that the request for vital records is connected to a corresponding application for assistance.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Deirdre Gifford, Acting Commissioner, Department of Public Health.](#) : Commissioner Gifford submitted written testimony in support of SB-916 with some concerns. She recommended that the "language be included to determine the mechanism to be used by the DPH and the town vital records registrar to verify the applicant's status." In addition, she requested an estimate of the number of fee waivers in order to determine possible revenue loss to the General Fund.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Anna Posniak, Town Clerk of Windsor and President of the CT Town Clerks Association.](#) :

Ms. Posniak submitted written testimony in support of SB-916. She stated the cost involved to the offices of the town clerk are "negligible" and should not impede on the passage of this bill. She added that showing the town clerk the application or a letter from the fund would be an appropriate way to ascertain eligibility for the fee waiver.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Edward Jacome, Assistant Clerk Date: 03/24/21