
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5367

AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE MARKER PLATES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS, TAX RELIEF FOR VETERANS, MUNICIPAL VETERANS SERVICES AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS STATUTES.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the motor vehicles commissioner to provide special registration marker plates to individuals who received a campaign medal and served while engaged in combat or in a combat support role in Afghanistan (from October 24, 2001, to August 30, 2021) or Iraq (from March 19, 2003, to December 31, 2011, and June 1, 2014, to December 9, 2021). It does so by explicitly adding these conflicts and dates to the “period of war” definition in the veterans statutes. By law, these plates have the words “(Name of War) Veteran” and the motor vehicles commissioner may charge a fee for them to cover the entire cost of their production (§§ 1 & 2).

The bill establishes a six-member working group made up of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee leadership to evaluate state property tax exemptions, abatements, and other relief for veterans. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Veterans’ Affairs and Planning and Development committees by January 1, 2023 (§ 31).

The bill also requires the veterans affairs commissioner to submit to the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, by September 1, 2022, recommendations for improvements regarding municipal veterans’ representatives to ensure the consistent, effective, and efficient provision of services (see BACKGROUND) (§ 32).

Lastly, it makes numerous technical changes (§§ 1-30).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022, except the working group and

municipal veterans' representative recommendations provisions are effective upon passage.

PROPERTY TAX WORKING GROUP

The bill establishes a working group that must:

1. evaluate state property tax exemptions, abatements, and other relief veterans receive;
2. make recommendations on whether state veterans property tax relief should be adjusted to more effectively align with the intent for the relief at the time it was enacted; and
3. create a list of municipalities that enacted local veterans property tax relief and specify the type of relief each enacted.

Under the bill, the working group consists of the Veterans' Affairs Committee's chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and ranking members. The working group ends when it submits its report on January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

BACKGROUND

Municipal Veterans' Representatives

The law requires any municipality without its own local veterans' advisory committee or that does not otherwise fund a veterans' service officer, to designate a municipal employee or a volunteer to serve as its municipal veterans' representative. Under the law, these representatives have the same duties as a local veterans' advisory committee, which may include, among other things, coordinating the activities of public and private facilities concerned with veteran reemployment, education, rehabilitation, and adjustment to peacetime living.

Among other things, the municipal veterans' representative must (1) be a veteran or have practical experience handling veterans' issues; (2) take training from the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Office of Advocacy and Assistance; and (3) be available to veterans a minimum number of hours per week as the municipality may establish (CGS § 27-

135).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/15/2022)