



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 343

LCO No. 2634



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING A MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY WORKING GROUP AND A GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN LICENSING, CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION OR TUITION FEES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
2 group to (1) reexamine the study conducted by the military occupational
3 specialty task force established pursuant to special act 13-5, (2) review
4 the efficacy of the legislative changes enacted in public act 14-131 as a
5 result of such study, and (3) identify areas for improvement in achieving
6 the purpose of such task force to aid veterans in securing employment.

7 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's
9 designee;

10 (2) The Adjutant General of the Military Department, or the Adjutant
11 General's designee;

12 (3) The executive director of the Office of Military Affairs, or the

- 13 executive director's designee;
- 14 (4) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;
- 15 (5) The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or the
16 president's designee;
- 17 (6) The chairperson of the Board of Trustees for The University of
18 Connecticut, or the chairperson's designee;
- 19 (7) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or the
20 executive director's designee;
- 21 (8) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's
22 designee;
- 23 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
- 24 (10) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 25 (11) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 26 (12) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
27 Representatives;
- 28 (13) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 29 (14) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
30 Representatives; and
- 31 (15) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- 32 (c) All appointments to the working group shall be made not later
33 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
34 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 35 (d) The members appointed by the speaker of the House of
36 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall be the
37 chairpersons of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule
38 the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than

39 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

40 (e) Not later than January 1, 2023, the working group shall submit a
41 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
42 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
43 relating to veterans' affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section
44 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the
45 date that it submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2023,
47 the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in consultation with the
48 Labor Commissioner and the executive director of the Technical
49 Education and Career System, shall establish a grant program through
50 which any veteran in this state, and any person sponsoring an
51 apprenticeship program in which any such veteran participates, may
52 apply for reimbursement of licensure, certification, registration or
53 tuition fees associated with occupations, apprenticeships or trade
54 programs within the jurisdiction of boards or councils in the
55 Department of Consumer Protection or Labor Department, as
56 applicable. As used in this section, "veteran" has the same meaning as
57 provided in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

58 (b) The following shall be eligible for reimbursement through the
59 grant program established in this section:

60 (1) Any fee paid to the Department of Consumer Protection by a
61 veteran for any (A) examination, (B) initial licensure or certification, or
62 (C) annual renewal for the five years immediately following such initial
63 licensure or certification;

64 (2) Any fee paid to the Labor Department by a person sponsoring an
65 apprenticeship program for any apprentice who (A) participates in such
66 program, and (B) is a veteran; and

67 (3) Up to one thousand dollars, in the aggregate, in tuition fees
68 charged by the Technical Education and Career System board for a
69 student who is a veteran, and paid to said board by, (A) such veteran,

70 or (B) the person sponsoring an apprenticeship program in which such
71 veteran participates.

72 (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in consultation with
73 the Labor Commissioner and the executive director of the Technical
74 Education and Career System, shall prescribe the manner in which
75 eligible veterans or persons sponsoring apprenticeship programs shall
76 apply for reimbursement through the grant program established in this
77 section.

78 (d) Not later than January 1, 2024, and every six months thereafter,
79 the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, the Labor Commissioner
80 and the executive director of the Technical Education and Career System
81 shall jointly submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
82 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
83 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' affairs.
84 Such report shall contain (1) information detailing the number of
85 applications approved, and the total amount reimbursed, under the
86 grant program established in this section, and (2) recommendations for
87 legislation to address any areas for improvement in the administration
88 of such grant program that have been identified in such report.

89 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of one hundred thousand
90 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Consumer Protection from
91 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the grant
92 program established in section 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish a working group to revisit the work of the military occupational specialty task force established under special act 13-5 and

the legislative changes enacted in public act 14-131, and (2) establish, and appropriate funds for, a grant program for the reimbursement of certain licensing, certification, registration and tuition fees.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]