
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5205

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERANS AND THE PASSPORT TO THE PARKS MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE.

SUMMARY

This bill exempts veterans from paying the passport to the parks fee collected on new and renewal motor vehicle registrations for passenger, motorcycle, motor home, combination, and antique motor vehicles. It requires anyone seeking an exemption to present verifying documentation to the Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner or his authorized representative.

By law, the “passport to the parks fee” is (1) \$15 for a three-year registration, (2) \$10 for a two-year registration, or (3) \$5 for anyone 65 or older who renews their registration each year (CGS § 14-49).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

By law and under the bill, a veteran is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, or any reserve component, including the Connecticut National Guard performing certain duties (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions) (CGS § 27-103(a)). It also includes anyone released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in the armed forces. A “qualifying condition” is a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, a disclosed military sexual trauma, or a determination by the Eligibility Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the other than honorable discharge (CGS § 27-103).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/16/2023)