



## Acts Affecting Veterans and the Military

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## Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting veterans and the military enacted during the 2022 legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/actsaffecting.asp>.

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden.

Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/olrsums.asp>.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library, House Clerk's Office, or General Assembly's website: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>.

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## **Employment and Education**

### ***Debt-Free College Program Eligibility Expansion***

This session, the legislature expanded eligibility for the state's debt-free community college program to include part-time students, allowing them to receive the same awards as full-time students (the greater of (1) the amount owed on tuition and fees, after scholarships and aid, or (2) a minimum award of \$250 for full-time students or \$150 for part-time students). The act specifically allows military members who return from active service to continue qualifying for the program regardless of whether they enroll full time as long as they reenroll within four years after being released from active duty ([PA 22-118](#), §§ 119 & 120, effective July 1, 2022).

### ***Expedited Licensure for Health Care Providers Licensed Elsewhere***

This session, the legislature expanded an existing law on expedited licensure for health care providers licensed in other states by eliminating prior provisions limiting it only to state residents or spouses of active-duty military members stationed in Connecticut. The act removes the residency requirement and instead applies this law, at minimum, to active-duty military members or their spouses. This law applies to providers who meet specified experience and background requirements ([PA 22-47](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2022).

### ***In-State Tuition Rates for Veterans and Eligible Dependents***

A new law expands entitlement to in-state tuition rates to veterans who live in Connecticut, regardless of their state of residence. This allows additional veterans to receive the state tuition waiver that covers any tuition amount that exceeds their federal tuition benefits.

The act also aligns state law with federal law by extending in-state student classification (for tuition purposes only) to (1) children and spouses of veterans who are entitled to educational assistance pursuant to the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship and live in Connecticut and (2) eligible dependents to whom Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits can be transferred ([PA 22-101](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2022).

## **Property Tax Relief**

### ***Income Calculation for Exemption Based on 100% Disability Rating***

This session, the legislature modified the income calculation used to determine eligibility for an optional, municipal property tax exemption for veterans who have a 100% disability rating and income below a specified threshold. Beginning in the 2022 assessment year, in conformity with current practice, a new law requires municipalities that opt to provide these veterans with three times the basic, state-mandated property tax exemption to calculate their income using only the

veteran's federal adjusted gross income (AGI), excluding his or her disability payments ([PA 22-74](#), § 1, effective October 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date).

### ***Exemption Portability***

Property tax exemptions for veterans are portable between municipalities if specifically allowed by law. This means veterans who have established their entitlement to an exemption remain eligible for it if they move to another municipality during the tax year. A new law adds to the list of portable tax exemptions the income-based and a local option veterans' property tax exemption (i.e., exemptions under [CGS § 12-81g](#), as amended by [PA 22-74](#), § 1) ([PA 22-74](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date).

### ***Local Option Property Tax Exemption for Veterans***

The legislature established a new optional local property tax exemption for income-qualifying veterans' primary residences. Local option exemptions under existing law generally have a lower allowable income threshold or more restrictive eligibility requirements than the new exemption. Under the new law, the exemption is available to veterans with up to \$50,100 in federal adjusted gross income in an amount equal to 10% of the assessed value of a dwelling a veteran owns and uses as a primary residence ([PA 22-34](#), § 33, effective October 1, 2022).

### ***Office of Policy Management (OPM) List of Property Tax Relief for Veterans***

A new law requires OPM secretary, jointly with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) commissioner, to annually provide written notice to municipalities about the property tax exemptions that a municipality may choose to approve for veterans, veterans' relatives or spouses, or individuals killed in action while on active military duty with the armed forces ([PA 22-34](#), § 34, effective October 1, 2022).

### ***Task Force on Veterans Property Tax Relief***

This session, the legislature established a task force to (1) evaluate state property tax exemptions, abatements, and other relief for veterans; (2) make recommendations about whether there should be tax relief adjustments; and (3) create a list of municipalities that provide local property tax relief and the type of relief available in each. The task force must provide this information to the Veterans' Affairs and Planning and Development committees by January 1, 2023 ([PA 22-34](#), § 31, effective upon passage).

## **Military Service and Support**

### ***Governor's Guards Activation and Organization***

The legislature passed a law authorizing the governor to order the Governor's Guards to state military duty at any time, rather than only in times of war, invasion, rebellion, or riot, or when he has a reasonable apprehension any of these will occur. The new law also reorganizes the Governor's Guards. It retains each company's senior leadership positions but allows other personnel of any number or rank that comply with the governor's orders and regulations about the companies' organization and structure ([PA 22-62](#), §§ 1-3, effective July 1, 2022).

### ***Honor Guard Detail Ribbons and Pay***

The act adjusting and implementing the FY 23 state budget increases, from \$50 to \$60, the daily pay for each member of an honor guard detail at a veteran's funeral. Additionally, a new law authorizes the adjutant general to issue military funeral honors ribbons to military personnel, including Connecticut National Guard and organized militia members, who perform honor guard details ([PA 22-118](#), §§ 117 & 118, effective October 1, 2022, and [PA 22-62](#), § 5, effective July 1, 2022).

### ***Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Account***

A new law changes the name of a non-lapsing account within the General Fund from the "Army National Guard state morale, welfare and recreation account," to the "Military Department state morale, welfare and recreation account." The new law also allows donations and grants to be deposited into the account and requires the adjutant general to annually report to OPM on deposits to and expenditures from it ([PA 22-62](#), § 4, effective July 1, 2022).

### ***Municipal Veterans' Representatives***

Under a new law, the DVA commissioner must, by September 1, 2022, submit to the Veterans' Affairs Committee recommendations for improvements concerning municipal veterans' representatives to ensure consistent, effective, and efficient provision of services. By law, these representatives do things such as coordinate activities related to veteran reemployment, education, rehabilitation, and adjustment to peacetime living ([PA 22-34](#), § 32, effective upon passage).

## **Miscellaneous**

### ***Concurrent Jurisdiction Over Offenses Committed by Minors on Federal Military Installations***

The Department of Defense (DOD) cannot prosecute individuals who are not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, such as minors. As a result, any prosecutions of minors for crimes they commit on military installations over which the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction generally must occur under federal law.

In response to concerns about minors being prosecuted in this manner, the legislature passed a law requiring the state to exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the United States in matters where (1) a minor has violated federal law while on a DOD military installation, (2) the installation is located on land that the state previously ceded exclusive jurisdiction over to the federal government, and (3) the U.S. Attorney or U.S. District Court for the state waives exclusive jurisdiction over that matter ([PA 22-63](#), effective October 1, 2022).

### ***Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy***

A new law requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, by January 1, 2023, to establish a psychedelic-assisted therapy pilot program, within available appropriations, administered by a Connecticut medical school. The pilot program must provide Connecticut veterans, among others, with MDMA (i.e., “Molly” or “ecstasy”) or psilocybin-assisted therapy as part of a research program approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Under the act, the pilot program ends when the Drug Enforcement Administration approves MDMA and psilocybin for medical use ([PA 22-146](#), §§ 20 & 28, effective July 1, 2022).

### ***Specialty License Plates – Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans***

A new law explicitly 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 or Iraq during certain specified dates. By law, these plates have the words “(Name of War) Veteran” ([PA 22-34](#), §§ 1 & 2, effective October 1, 2022).

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