



## **2024 Acts Affecting Veterans and the Military**

By: Jessica Schaeffer-Helmecki, Senior Legislative Attorney  
June 28, 2024 | 2024-R-0095



## Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts and special acts) significantly affecting veterans and the military enacted during the 2024 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

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](#).

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](#).

## Table of Contents

Benefits .....	4
Military Relief Fund .....	4
Property Tax Exemption for Veterans With a Permanent and Total Disability Rating .....	4
Driver’s Licenses and Plates .....	4
Q-Endorsement Waivers .....	4
Veteran’s License Plates and Designations for Certain Reservists.....	5
Professional License Portability .....	5
DPH-Issued Credentials.....	5
Social Work Licensure Compact .....	5
Miscellaneous .....	6
Migraine Treatment Study.....	6
Military Leave Under the State Personnel Act .....	6
VA Healthcare System and Probate Court Fees.....	6

## **Benefits**

### ***Military Relief Fund***

Legislation passed this year expands eligibility for Military Relief Fund grants. Under prior law, the Connecticut Military Department could only provide grants to servicemembers and their immediate family members to pay for essential personal or household goods or services if these expenses would be a hardship due to the servicemember's military service. Under the new law, the department may also provide grants if these expenses would be a hardship due to the servicemember's or immediate family member's serious injury, serious illness, or death ([PA 24-57](#), effective July 1, 2024).

### ***Property Tax Exemption for Veterans With a Permanent and Total Disability Rating***

This year, the legislature passed a law that fully exempts from property tax a primary dwelling or motor vehicle for each former servicemember (i.e., veteran) who has a permanent and total disability rating.

The eligibility criteria and application requirements for this new exemption are generally the same as those for the existing disability rating-based exemption for veterans. To qualify, a veteran must have served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, or Space Force; reside in this state; and file for the exemption with the town assessor. The exemption may also be transferred to a veteran's spouse or minor children in certain circumstances ([PA 24-46](#), effective October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years starting on or after that date).

## **Driver's Licenses and Plates**

### ***Q-Endorsement Waivers***

This session, the legislature passed a law that allows qualifying veterans and servicemembers to get Q-endorsements without meeting the training and skill demonstration requirements. (A Q-endorsement is a license endorsement that authorizes holders to operate a fire apparatus (i.e., drive a fire truck).)

To qualify for the waiver, a veteran or servicemember must meet the minimum requirements, set in federal law, that apply to commercial driver's license (CDL) testing waivers (e.g., have been employed within a year of applying for the waiver in a qualifying military position and driven a commercial vehicle in the military that was representative of the type he or she expects to drive) ([PA 24-14](#), effective October 1, 2024).

## ***Veteran’s License Plates and Designations for Certain Reservists***

A new law allows eligible former reservists, or their surviving spouses, to get a veteran license plate. The law also allows these reservists (but not their spouses) to receive a veteran designation on their driver’s licenses or identification cards. These benefits generally may be provided to any person who honorably served in the National Guard or a reserve component of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force ([PA 24-119](#), effective October 1, 2024).

## **Professional License Portability**

### ***DPH-Issued Credentials***

In 2023, Congress amended the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to allow the portability of servicemembers’ and their spouses’ professional licenses (“covered licenses”) for the duration of any military orders requiring them to relocate outside of the jurisdiction that issued their licenses.

A new law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner, by July 1, 2024, to publish an application for each DPH-issued occupational credential that collects the applicant information necessary for the department to recognize a covered license (without an application fee). Under the law, after DPH determines that an applicant is eligible for license recognition under the SCRA, it must issue a specially designated credential for the applicable occupation or profession. Generally, the credential expires when the military no longer requires the person’s residency in the state. Among other things, the credential is subject to laws on disciplinary action that apply to other DPH-issued credentials ([PA 24-68](#), §§ 34 & 35, effective upon passage, except a conforming change takes effect July 1, 2024).

### ***Social Work Licensure Compact***

A new law enters Connecticut into the Social Work Licensure Compact. (In practice, the compact is still in the implementation process and license applications are currently anticipated to be open in late 2025.)

The compact creates a process for social workers to obtain a multistate license, allowing them to practice in any member state, including by telehealth. To be eligible for a multistate license, applicants must have an active, unencumbered license in their home state and meet other requirements. Under the law, active-duty military members, or their spouses, must additionally designate a home state where the person has a multistate license. The person may keep this designation while the service member is on active duty ([PA 24-30](#), effective upon passage).

## **Miscellaneous**

### ***Migraine Treatment Study***

A new law requires the University of Connecticut Health Center's neurology department to conduct a study on migraine treatments for women and veterans. It requires the department chair to report on the study's results to the Public Health and Appropriations committees by July 1, 2026 ([SA 24-18](#), effective July 1, 2024).

### ***Military Leave Under the State Personnel Act***

Legislation newly enacted this year updates obsolete military terminology in the State Personnel Act. It also revises the maximum number of paid leave of absence days that full-time, permanent state employees who serve in the state armed forces (e.g., Connecticut National Guard) or federal reserves may take each year. It allows them to take up to 15 days (rather than three calendar weeks) per year to perform ordered military training (rather than to undergo required field training) ([PA 24-96](#), effective July 1, 2024).

### ***VA Healthcare System and Probate Court Fees***

A new law extends to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System the same requirements that apply under existing law to state agencies for paying probate court fees. Under this law, if a state agency files a probate court matter or is otherwise liable for probate fees or expenses, the court must accept the matter without the filing fee and bill the agency for later payment, with the bill due upon receipt ([PA 24-97](#), § 2, effective October 1, 2024).

JSH:co