



REPORT PURSUANT TO CGS 4-61BB

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF MILITARY TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

Submitted by
Commissioner Kurt Westby
Connecticut Department of Labor

To the Joint Standing Committees on
Veterans' Affairs & Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JANUARY, 2020

LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

CGS 4-61bb requires the Labor Commissioner to annually submit a report that shall include the following: (A) The number of service members who applied for a military training evaluation pursuant to section 31-22u, a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied; (B) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was approved; (C) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was denied, and data on the reasons for any such denial; (D) the licensing authority's processing time for applications that are within such licensing authority's purview where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied and are submitted by service members and the average processing time for all applications; (E) information on the licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit; (F) information on whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state; and (G) recommendations on improving the licensing authority's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members, including, but not limited to, the issuance of temporary or provisional licenses, certificates or registrations. The Labor Department shall also include in its report the number of service members who were issued or denied a recommendation for review or a deduction from the hours of apprenticeship training pursuant to section 31-22u.

REPORT

Service Member Applications

During 2019, 67 service members applied to the Labor Department for a military training evaluation pursuant to section 31-22u, for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit within the agency's purview, where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied. With regard to such applications, 67 service members were issued a recommendation for review or a deduction from the hours of apprenticeship training pursuant to section 31-22u. No service members were ineligible for review during the calendar year.

Processing Time

The Labor Department's processing time for service members' applications that are within the agency's purview as a licensing authority, where military training or experience is relevant

and could be applied, was five business days. The average processing time for all applications was also five business days.

Efforts to Inform and Assist Service Members

Labor Department staff in the American Job Centers helped to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit, efforts which resulted in the referral of 137 veterans to apprenticeship and other training opportunities. CT DOL's Office of Apprenticeship Training, maintains a designated liaison for veterans, who is accessible as a veterans' point of contact on the Labor Department's Veterans Services and Apprenticeship webpages, the Connecticut State Department of Consumer Protection website and PSI's occupational testing website (a third-party administrator for occupational licensing exams). This liaison reviews DD214s, Joint Services Transcripts and other military certifications for credit. In addition, CT DOL Apprenticeship staff participated in statewide veteran events such as the Department of Veterans Affairs' Stand Down and the Heroes 4 Hire Veterans Career Fair.

Effectiveness of Existing Law

The agency's Office of Apprenticeship training has been reviewing veteran requests for a military training evaluation for 16 years, and has developed and maintained effective relationships with the U.S. Navy Sub Base, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the state Department of Veterans Affairs, and other veteran partners. Given these relationships, it is our perspective that existing law appears to be effective in addressing the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state.

Recommendations

CT DOL recognizes a growing need for improved employment services for military spouses, including professional license reciprocity, and recommends a focus on addressing this need.