



**Agency Legislative Proposal – 2024 Session**

**Document Name:**

<b>Document Name</b>	10022023_CTMD_Expansion_Military_Relief_Fund [1 of 2]
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**Naming Format:** AGENCY ACRONYM PROPOSAL NUMBER - TOPIC

*Please insert a copy of the fully drafted bill at the end of this document (required for review)*

<b>Legislative Liaison</b>	Major Erich Heinonen
<b>Division Requesting This Proposal</b>	The Adjutant General
<b>Drafter</b>	Major Erich Heinonen

<b>Title of Proposal</b>	An Act Expanding Eligibility for Grants from the Military Relief Fund
<b>Statutory Reference, if any</b>	CGS § 27-100a
<b>Brief Summary and Statement of Purpose</b>	Expand eligibility of Connecticut servicemembers for grants from the Military Relief Fund for essential household goods or services if payment would be a hardship due to a serious illness, injury or death of the eligible servicemember or immediate family member. This minimal expansion may assist deserving service members in need and is not expected to negatively impact the long-term viability of the non-lapsing “Military Relief Fund” account.



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**SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY**

*Summarize sections in groups where appropriate*

Amend CGS § 27-100a(c) to expand eligibility of grants from the Military Relief Fund for essential household goods and services if payment would be a hardship due to the serious illness, injury or death of service members or immediate family members in addition to the existing eligibility criteria – if payment would be a hardship due to the military service of the eligible service member.

**BACKGROUND**

**Origin of Proposal**             **New Proposal**             **Resubmission**

**If this is a resubmission, please share the prior bill number, the reason the bill did not move forward, and any changes made or conversations had since it was last proposed:**

*Please consider the following, if applicable:*

<b>How does this proposal connect to the 10-year vision for the agency’s mission?</b>	Contributes to the agency’s initiative to effectively and judiciously steward agency programs designed to benefit the quality of life of servicemembers residing and serving within the state.
<b>How will we measure if the proposal successfully accomplishes its goals?</b>	Via the annual report to the General Assembly’s Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee which is statutorily required by CGS § 27-100a(f) and includes: (1) The number of applications received, (2) the number of eligible members who received grants under this section and whose immediate family members received grants under this section, (3) the amount in grants made to each such eligible member and to the immediate family of each such eligible member, (4) the uses for such grants, and (5) any recommendations regarding the Military Relief Fund, including any proposed legislation to facilitate the purposes of this section.
<b>Have there been changes in federal/state laws or regulations that make this</b>	No.



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<b>legislation necessary?</b>	
<b>Has this proposal or a similar proposal been implemented in other states? If yes, to what result?</b>	N/A.
<b>Have certain constituencies called for this proposal?</b>	N/A.

**INTERAGENCY IMPACT**

*List each affected agency. Copy the table as needed.*

**[X]** Check here if this proposal does NOT impact other agencies

<b>1. Agency Name</b>	
<b>Agency Contact (name, title)</b>	
<b>Date Contacted</b>	
<b>Status</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
<b>Open Issues, if any</b>	

**FISCAL IMPACT**

*Include the section number(s) responsible for the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact*



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Check here if this proposal does NOT have a fiscal impact

<b>State</b>	The agency expects a moderate increase in the number of grants provided from the nonlapsing “Military Relief Fund” account. However, the department does not anticipate any immediate impact to the long-term viability of the fund.
<b>Municipal (Include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)</b>	N/A
<b>Federal</b>	N/A
<b>Additional notes</b>	N/A

**MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN**

*If applicable, please describe the anticipated measurable outcomes and the data that will be used to track those outcomes. Include the section number(s) responsible for those outcomes*

Check here if this proposal does NOT lead to any measurable outcomes

The annual report to the General Assembly’s Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee which is statutorily required by CGS § 27-100a(f) will summarize the details of the outcome of this legislation. That report includes: (1) The number of applications received, (2) the number of eligible members who received grants under this section and whose immediate family members received grants under this section, (3) the amount in grants made to each such eligible member and to the immediate family of each such eligible member, (4) the uses for such grants, and (5) any recommendations regarding the Military Relief Fund, including any proposed legislation to facilitate the purposes of this section.

**ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW?**



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**INSERT FULLY DRAFTED BILL HERE**

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

Section 27-100a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2024):

Sec. 27-100a. Military Relief Fund. Regulations. Annual report. (a) As used in this section, (1) “department” means the Military Department, (2) “fund” means the Military Relief Fund established in accordance with this section, (3) “eligible member of the armed forces” and “eligible member” means a member of the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, including the Connecticut National Guard, who is domiciled in this state, (4) “immediate family member” means an eligible member's spouse, child or parent who is domiciled in this state, or any other member of an eligible member's family who lives in the same household as the eligible member, and (5) “essential personal or household goods or services” includes, but is not limited to, repairs, medical services that are not covered by insurance, transportation, babysitting, clothing, school supplies or any other goods or services that are essential to the well-being of an eligible member or eligible member's immediate family.

(b) There is established, within the General Fund, a separate, nonlapsing account to be known as the “Military Relief Fund”. The account shall contain (1) any amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the state for the purposes of this section, (2) any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, and (3) gifts, grants, donations or bequests made for the purposes of this section. Investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The State Treasurer shall administer the fund. All moneys deposited in the account shall be used by the Military Department for the purposes of this section. The Military Department may deduct and retain from the moneys in the account an amount equal to the costs incurred by the department in administering the provisions of this section, except that said amount shall not exceed two per cent of the moneys deposited in the account in any fiscal year.

(c) The Military Department shall use the Military Relief Fund to make grants to eligible members of the armed forces or their immediate family members for essential personal or household goods or services in this state if the payment for such goods or services would be a hardship for such eligible member or family member because of the military service of the eligible member, or a serious injury, illness or death of the eligible member or family member. The department shall not make any grant that exceeds five thousand dollars or the balance available for grants in the fund.



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(d) The department shall establish an application process that is simple for eligible members and their immediate family members. The department shall act on each application no later than seven days after the date on which the completed application is submitted to the department.

(e) The department shall adopt regulations implementing the provisions of this section, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, and may implement the policies and procedures contained in such proposed regulations while in the process of adopting such proposed regulations, provided the department publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal no later than twenty days after implementing such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the earlier of the date on which such regulations are effective or one year after the publication of such notice of intention.

(f) On or before February fifteenth of each calendar year, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs, in accordance with section 11-4a, that contains the following information for the preceding calendar year: (1) The number of applications received, (2) the number of eligible members who received grants under this section and whose immediate family members received grants under this section, (3) the amount in grants made to each such eligible member and to the immediate family of each such eligible member, (4) the uses for such grants, and (5) any recommendations regarding the Military Relief Fund, including any proposed legislation to facilitate the purposes of this section. Such reports shall not identify the name of any eligible member or of any immediate family member. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-210, all information obtained by the Military Department that contains the name or address of, or other information that could be used to identify, an eligible member or an immediate family member shall be confidential.



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<b>Document Name</b>	10022023_Military_Leave_State_Personnel_Act [2 of 2]
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**Naming Format:** AGENCY ACRONYM PROPOSAL NUMBER - TOPIC

*Please insert a copy of the fully drafted bill at the end of this document (required for review)*

<b>Legislative Liaison</b>	Major Erich Heinonen
<b>Division Requesting This Proposal</b>	The Adjutant General
<b>Drafter</b>	Major Erich Heinonen

<b>Title of Proposal</b>	An Act Clarifying Military Leave Provisions of the State Personnel Act
<b>Statutory Reference, if any</b>	CGS § 5-248
<b>Brief Summary and Statement of Purpose</b>	Update obsolete military terminology utilized in the State Personnel Act regarding military to leave to facilitate use of the leave provisions by state employees who serve in the armed forces. The Military Department has been periodically contacted by other agency leadership, HR departments and individual employees regarding the meaning of the provisions of CGS § 5-248 due to the obsolete language used therein.

**SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY**

*Summarize sections in groups where appropriate*

N/A
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BACKGROUND

Origin of Proposal       New Proposal       Resubmission

If this is a resubmission, please share the prior bill number, the reason the bill did not move forward, and any changes made or conversations had since it was last proposed:

Please consider the following, if applicable:

<b>How does this proposal connect to the 10-year vision for the agency’s mission?</b>	Contributes to the agency’s initiative to recruit and retain qualified individuals into the Connecticut National Guard, supports the quality of life state employees who serve in the armed forces, and supports efficiency of state human resource departments.
<b>How will we measure if the proposal successfully accomplishes its goals?</b>	N/A
<b>Have there been changes in federal/state laws or regulations that make this legislation necessary?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this proposal or a similar proposal been implemented in other states? If yes, to what result?</b>	N/A
<b>Have certain constituencies called for this proposal?</b>	Yes. Connecticut National Guard personnel serving as state employees in other agencies.





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**INTERAGENCY IMPACT**

*List each affected agency. Copy the table as needed.*

Check here if this proposal does NOT impact other agencies

<b>1. Agency Name</b>	All CT State Agencies
<b>Agency Contact (name, title)</b>	DAS - Megan Andrews, Legislative Liaison
<b>Date Contacted</b>	September 26, 2023
<b>Status</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
<b>Open Issues, if any</b>	

**FISCAL IMPACT**

*Include the section number(s) responsible for the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact*

Check here if this proposal does NOT have a fiscal impact

<b>State</b>	
<b>Municipal (Include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)</b>	
<b>Federal</b>	N/A
<b>Additional notes</b>	N/A



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**MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN**

*If applicable, please describe the anticipated measurable outcomes and the data that will be used to track those outcomes. Include the section number(s) responsible for those outcomes*

**[X] Check here if this proposal does NOT lead to any measurable outcomes**

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**ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW?**

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**INSERT FULLY DRAFTED BILL HERE**

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

Section 5-248 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2024):

Sec. 5-248. Leaves of absence. Reinstatement upon withdrawal of resignation. (a) An appointing authority may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, grant a leave of absence with full pay, part pay or without pay, subject to the regulations issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services, to any employee in the classified service for a period not exceeding one year. Such leave may be extended beyond one year by an appointing authority, provided such action shall be approved by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. In the granting of a leave of absence without pay, the appointing authority shall notify the employee and the Commissioner of Administrative Services whether the position will be held awaiting the employee's return or whether reinstatement will be dependent upon whether or not a suitable vacancy is available. A leave of absence with full or part pay may be granted only for



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educational purposes in order to enable an employee to study or receive technical training which will increase his proficiency in his position or for such other purpose as may be specified by the Commissioner of Administrative Services to be in the best interests of the state.

(b) Any employee who shall enter the armed forces as specified in section 5-255 shall be entitled to a leave of absence without pay for the time served in such service, plus ninety additional days.

(c) Any full-time permanent employee in the state service who is a member of the armed forces of the state or of any reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and is required to [undergo field] perform ordered military training therein shall, for the period not exceeding [three] fifteen calendar [weeks] days per year of such [field] military training, be entitled to a leave of absence with pay in addition to his annual vacation. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any such employee from attending ordered [annual field] military training while on regularly scheduled vacation if he so desires.

(d) Any full-time permanent employee in the state service who qualifies to be a member of a team recognized by the United States Olympic Committee shall, upon written application and with the approval of his appointing authority, be entitled to a leave of absence with pay, and with his position held, for a period not exceeding ninety days after so qualifying in order to compete in Olympic games sponsored by the International Olympic Committee.

(e) When any employee has been on authorized leave of absence without his position being held and is ready to report for duty when a position is available, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall refer the name of the employee to an appointing authority for possible reinstatement to a position in a class in which the employee has attained permanent status. The employee may be reinstated at the discretion of the appointing authority, provided no other employee has rights to the position pursuant to subsection (b) of section 5-241.

(f) Any agency may reinstate, without examination, any employee who has resigned in good standing and has withdrawn his or her resignation within one year to positions in classes in which he or she has attained permanent status. A classified employee with at least five years of state service appointed to an unclassified position may be granted a leave of absence without pay from the classified service by the Commissioner of Administrative Services for such length of time as he or she shall hold such appointive position, except that no such leave of absence shall exceed two consecutive years unless such classified employee requests and is granted a renewal of such leave of absence by the commissioner.