



## Agency Legislative Proposal - 2020 Session

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): DVA2020– Legislative Proposal 1

(If submitting electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs

**Liaison:** Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner

**Phone:** 860-616-3604

**E-mail:** thomas.j.saadi@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Thomas J. Saadi

**Title of Proposal:** Annual Report of Veterans Benefits technical updates

**Statutory Reference:** C.G.S. Sec. 27-102p

**Proposal Summary:** To redirect submission of the Department of Veterans Affairs annual Report of Veterans Benefits to the Veterans Affairs Committee rather than the incorreced referenced public safety committee. Provide additional time for the DVA to compile and submit the report.

### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### ◇ Reason for Proposal

*Please consider the following, if applicable:*

Explained in the Proposal Summary above.

#### ◇ Origin of Proposal

☒ New Proposal ☐ Resubmission

*If this is a resubmission, please share:*



## **PROPOSAL IMPACT**

### ◇ **AGENCIES AFFECTED** *(please list for each affected agency)*

<b>Agency Name:</b> none <b>Agency Contact (name, title, phone):</b> <b>Date Contacted:</b>
Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
<b>Summary of Affected Agency's Comments</b>
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

### ◇ **FISCAL IMPACT** *(please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)*

<b>Municipal</b> <i>(please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)</i>
<b>State</b> none
<b>Federal</b> None
<b>Additional notes on fiscal impact</b>

### ◇ **POLICY and PROGRAMMATIC IMPACTS** *(Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)*

Will direct the report to the appropriate committee with cognizance over Veterans Issues
--

### ◇ **EVIDENCE BASE**

Not applicable
----------------

**Insert fully drafted bill here**



Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 27-102p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*effective upon passage*):

**Sec. 27-102p. Annual report of veterans' benefits.** (a) Not later than July 15, 2007, ~~and annually thereafter,~~ each state agency or municipality that provides benefits to veterans, as defined in section 27-103, shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, in the manner and format as prescribed by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, that includes a description of each type of benefit provided to veterans, the value of such benefit and the number of veterans to whom such benefit was provided, for the twelve-month period ending on June thirtieth of the same year. ~~The commissioner shall compile the data in such report.~~

(b) Not later than August ~~301, 2007, and annually thereafter,~~ the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall submit a report of the data compiled pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, for the twelve-month period ending on June thirtieth of the same year, to the Military Department and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to Veterans public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report shall specify the total number of veterans receiving benefits and the value of such benefits by category of benefit and in total for such period.



## Agency Legislative Proposal - 2020 Session

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): DVA2020– Legislative Proposal 2

(If submitting electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs

**Liaison:** Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner

**Phone:** 860-616-3604

**E-mail:** thomas.j.saadi@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Thomas J. Saadi

**Title of Proposal:** Annual Report of Veterans Benefits technical updates

**Statutory Reference:** C.G.S. Sec. 14-20b, Sec. 14-36h and Sec. 10a-149d

**Proposal Summary:** Include active duty military service for initial duty training (a.k.a. Basic Training or “Boot Camp”) as qualifying service for Veteran status to be eligible for Veteran designation on driver’s license (or non-license ID), Veteran designation on license plate and to receive college credit for certain military training.

### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

#### ◇ Reason for Proposal

*Please consider the following, if applicable:*

Explained in the Proposal Summary above.

#### ◇ Origin of Proposal

☒ New Proposal ☐ Resubmission

*If this is a resubmission, please share:*

While a new proposal by the DVA variations of this proposal have been introduced in prior legislative sessions. However, those proposals including many additional benefits that some legislators and agencies felt would have a fiscal impact that could not be absorbed within the state budget.



## **PROPOSAL IMPACT**

### ◇ **AGENCIES AFFECTED** *(please list for each affected agency)*

<b>Agency Name:</b> Department of Motor Vehicles <b>Agency Contact (<i>name, title, phone</i>):</b> Millie Torres, Legislative Liaison, 860-263-5032 <b>Date Contacted:</b> November 13, 2019
Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Talks Ongoing</b>
<b>Summary of Affected Agency's Comments</b> Training will be necessary for staff to understand eligibility parameters. The DVA can provide this training to DMV for license plates. No training required to process drivers' license and ID Cards applications as DVA currently determines eligibility on behalf of the DMV.
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>Agency Name:</b> Office of Higher Education <b>Agency Contact (<i>name, title, phone</i>):</b> Noele Kidney, Legislative Liaison, 860-947-1801 <b>Date Contacted:</b> November 13, 2019
Approve of Proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Talks Ongoing</b>
<b>Summary of Affected Agency's Comments</b> Training will be necessary for staff to understand eligibility parameters, which the DVA can provide.
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>

### ◇ **FISCAL IMPACT** *(please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)*

<b>Municipal</b> <i>(please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)</i> none
<b>State</b> none
<b>Federal</b> None

**Additional notes on fiscal impact**

There are no DMV fee waivers or tuition waivers associated with the proposal.

**♦ POLICY and PROGRAMMATIC IMPACTS** *(Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)*

Will recognize men and women who served honorably in the National Guard and Reserve components of the Armed Forces whose active duty service was for their initial duty training. This recognition has no measurable fiscal impact and does not expand the broader range of benefits for current and former members of the Armed Forces who have served on active duty beyond their initial duty training.

**♦ EVIDENCE BASE**

Not applicable

**Insert fully drafted bill here**

Section 1. Section 14-20b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*effective October 1, 2020*):

**Sec. 14-20b. Number plates for veterans and members of the armed forces. Return and nonrenewal of number plates.** (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any veteran or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such veteran or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle, including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as a trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates, which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle. As used in this subsection, "member of the armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103 and "veteran" means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, which shall include active duty service for initial active duty for training purposes, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

(b) Any such member of the armed forces who is dishonorably discharged shall return such plates to the commissioner not later than thirty days after such discharge. The commissioner shall not renew such



plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased by any such member of the armed forces who is dishonorably discharged.

Section 2. Subsection (f) of section 14-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*effective October 1, 2020*):

**Sec. 14-36h. Contents and features of operator's license and identity card. Issuance to persons on active duty. Veteran status indicated.** (a) Each motor vehicle operator's license issued by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in accordance with section 14-36 and each identity card issued by said commissioner in accordance with section 1-1h shall contain the following: (1) The person's full legal name; (2) the person's date of birth; (3) the person's gender; (4) the person's height and eye color; (5) the person's assigned operator's license or identity card number; (6) the person's address of principal residence in this state; (7) the person's signature; (8) the person's photograph or digital image; and (9) if applicable, the person's status as a veteran, as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

(b) If any person does not reside in any state, territory or possession of the United States because such person is on active military duty with the United States Armed Forces, and such person's home state of record is Connecticut, as reflected in the records of the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security or any department under which the United States Coast Guard operates, such person may obtain a Connecticut operator's license or identity card, provided such person: (1) Does not have an operator's license or identity card issued by another state, territory or possession of the United States, or surrenders any such license or identity card; (2) has a current APO or FPO mailing address; (3) designates such person's home address as 60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161; and (4) meets all other requirements for obtaining an operator's license or identity card in this state.

(c) The commissioner shall provide that each such license or identity card document contains physical security features designed to prevent tampering, counterfeiting or duplication of the document.

(d) Each such document shall also contain one or more machine-readable technology feature or component, including, but not limited to, a bar code or magnetic strip.

(e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to have his or her status as a veteran contained on his or her motor vehicle operator's license or identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such request, verify whether such person is a veteran and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall indicate such person's status as a veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license or identity card issued to such person upon original issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.

(f) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity, unless the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate of civil union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent



jurisdiction pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name; and (2) "veteran" means (A) any person honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, which shall include active duty service for initial active duty for training purposes, (B) any former member of the armed forces who is entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, or, but for age, would be so entitled, or (C) any person with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

Section 3. Subsection (a) of Section 10a-149d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*effective October 1, 2020*):

**Sec. 10a-149d. College credit for military training. Guidelines and policies.** (a) An institution of higher education shall award college credit for military occupational specialty training to a member of the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran who enrolls at such institution and has experience in a military occupation recognized by such institution as substituting for or meeting the requirements of a particular course of study. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person (1) [who was] honorably discharged from or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces, which shall include active duty service for initial active duty for training purposes, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces. [and] "[a]Armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2016, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut, in consultation with the institutions of higher education in the state, shall develop and adopt guidelines on awarding college credit for a student's military training, coursework and education. Such guidelines shall include course equivalency recommendations adopted by the American Council on Education or by other institutions or organizations deemed reputable by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut. Until the adoption of such guidelines, any institution of higher education that awards college credit for such training, coursework and education shall use course equivalency recommendations adopted by the American Council on Education, a portfolio assessment process when appropriate or the institution's transfer and articulation policies when assigning college credit to a military occupation. Upon adoption of such guidelines, the governing body of each institution of higher education in the state shall develop and implement policies governing the awarding of college credit for a student's military training, coursework and education.