



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 5510

LCO No. 3651



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE IN THE DEFINITION OF "ARMED FORCES".

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as
5 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,
6 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and
7 any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National
8 Guard performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States
9 Code, as amended from time to time; (2) "veteran" means any person
10 honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from
11 or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a
12 qualifying condition from, active service in, the armed forces; (3)
13 "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative days
14 during a period of war unless separated from service earlier because of
15 an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or a service-

16 connected disability rated by the United States Department of Veterans
17 Affairs, except that if the period of war lasted less than ninety days,
18 "service in time of war" means service for the entire period of war unless
19 separated because of any such injury or disability; (4) "period of war"
20 has the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as amended from time
21 to time, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning on
22 February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and "period
23 of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a combat
24 support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or September
25 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15,
26 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers
27 flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf, July 24, 1987, to August
28 1, 1990; Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; Afghanistan,
29 October 24, 2001, to August 30, 2021; and Iraq, March 19, 2003, to
30 December 31, 2011, or June 1, 2014, to December 9, 2021, and shall
31 include service during such periods with the armed forces of any
32 government associated with the United States; and (5) "qualifying
33 condition" means (A) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or
34 traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health
35 care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility,
36 (B) an experience of military sexual trauma, as described in 38 USC
37 1720D, as amended from time to time, disclosed to an individual
38 licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department
39 of Veterans Affairs facility, or (C) a determination that sexual
40 orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than
41 not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as
42 determined in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

43 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 1-219 of the general statutes is
44 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
45 *1, 2023*):

46 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Armed forces" means the Army, Navy,
47 Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [or] Air Force or Space Force of the United
48 States; (2) "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or

49 released under honorable conditions from active service or reserve
50 status in the armed forces; (3) "military discharge document" means a
51 United States Department of Defense form, including, but not limited
52 to, a DD 214 form, or any valid paper that evidences the service,
53 discharge or retirement of a veteran from the armed forces that contains
54 personal information such as a service number or Social Security
55 number; (4) "person" means any individual or entity, including, but not
56 limited to, a relative of a veteran, a licensed funeral director or
57 embalmer, an attorney-at-law, an attorney-in-fact, an insurance
58 company or a veterans' advocate; and (5) "public agency" or "agency"
59 means a public agency, as defined in section 1-200.

60 Sec. 3. Section 9-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the
61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

62 As used in sections 9-25 to 9-31, inclusive, the term "members of the
63 armed forces" shall include members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
64 Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force or Merchant Marine of the United
65 States, or any of their respective components.

66 Sec. 4. Section 9-134 of the general statutes is repealed and the
67 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

68 The term "members of the armed forces", wherever used in this
69 chapter, means members in active service of the Army, Navy, Air Force,
70 Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Coast and Geodetic Survey,
71 Public Health Service and Merchant Marine of the United States, and all
72 regular and reserve components thereof. The term "members of the
73 Merchant Marine of the United States", wherever used in this chapter,
74 means persons employed as officers or members of crews of vessels
75 documented under the laws of the United States, or of vessels owned by
76 the United States, or of vessels of foreign-flag registry under charter to
77 or control of the United States, and persons enrolled with the United
78 States for employment, or for training for employment, or maintained
79 by the United States for emergency relief service, as officers or members
80 of crews of any such vessels; but does not mean persons so employed,

81 or enrolled for such employment or for training for such employment,
82 or maintained for such emergency relief service, on the Great Lakes or
83 the inland waterways. The term "United States", wherever used
84 geographically in this chapter, includes the territorial limits of the states
85 of the United States and the District of Columbia.

86 Sec. 5. Section 27-102b of the general statutes is repealed and the
87 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

88 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
89 regulation of Connecticut state agencies, a state agency or board that
90 issues licenses or certificates for which professional training, schooling
91 or apprenticeship is required shall provide credits or exemptions from
92 requirements toward licensure or certification for any applicant who
93 received applicable training, schooling or experience while serving as a
94 member of the armed forces. An applicant shall not be required to repeat
95 any substantively similar training or schooling required for licensure or
96 certification. Credits or exemptions from requirements toward licenses
97 or certificates awarded by the constituent units of the state system of
98 public higher education pursuant to this section shall be granted in a
99 manner consistent with (1) guidelines established by the American
100 Council on Education, (2) the constituent units' transfer credit policies,
101 and (3) 38 CFR 21.4253 and 38 CFR 21.4254. For purposes of this section,
102 "armed forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
103 Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and any reserve
104 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard and the
105 state militia.

106 Sec. 6. Subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 31-3uu of the
107 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
108 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

109 (7) "Armed Forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine
110 Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and any reserve
111 component thereof, including a state National Guard performing duty
112 as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code.

113 Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 46b-56e of the
114 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
115 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

116 (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine
117 Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force and Space Force and any reserve
118 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard
119 performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code;

120 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 51-49h of the general statutes is
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
122 *1, 2023*):

123 (c) For the purposes of this section: (1) "Armed forces" means the
124 United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, [and] Air Force
125 and Space Force; (2) "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in
126 section 27-103, as amended by this act; and (3) "military service" shall be
127 service during World War II, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946;
128 the Korean hostilities, June 27, 1950, to October 27, 1953; and the
129 Vietnam era, January 1, 1964, to July 1, 1975, and shall include service as
130 a prisoner of war.

131 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 4-61bb of the general statutes is
132 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
133 *1, 2023*):

134 (a) For the purposes of this section, "licensing authority" means the
135 Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Emergency
136 Services and Public Protection, the Labor Department, the Department
137 of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Public Health, the Board of
138 Regents for Higher Education, the Office of Higher Education, the Board
139 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut or the Police Officer
140 Standards and Training Council; "service member" means a member of
141 the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran; "armed forces" has
142 the same meaning as [set forth] provided in section 27-103, as amended
143 by this act; and "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section

144 27-103, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	27-103(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	1-219(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2023	9-24
Sec. 4	October 1, 2023	9-134
Sec. 5	October 1, 2023	27-102b
Sec. 6	October 1, 2023	31-3uu(a)(7)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2023	46b-56e(a)(1)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2023	51-49h(c)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2023	4-61bb(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To include the United States Space Force in the definition of "armed forces".

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. NOLAN, 39th Dist.; REP. SANTOS, 109th Dist.
REP. CONLEY, 40th Dist.; SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.
REP. BUMGARDNER, 41st Dist.; REP. DUBITSKY, 47th Dist.

H.B. 5510, 5047, 5375