

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2817**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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SENATE, June 10, 2024.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the House Bill honoring, empowering, and recognizing our servicemembers and veterans (House, No. 4671); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2817.

For the committee,  
Michael J. Rodrigues

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**

1           SECTION 1. Section 34 of chapter 2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 2, the word “department” and  
3 inserting in place thereof the following words:- executive office.

4           SECTION 2. Section 41 of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
5 amended by striking out, in lines 47 and 94, the word “department” and inserting in place  
6 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- executive office.

7           SECTION 3. Subsection (d) of section 16DD of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as so  
8 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 29, the second time it appears, the word  
9 “department” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- executive office.

10          SECTION 4. Section 105 of said chapter 6A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
11 striking out, in line 1, the words “a department” and inserting in place thereof the following  
12 words:- an executive office.

13          SECTION 5. Section 4G of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
14 amended by striking out, in lines 7 and 8, the words “the department of veterans’ services,”.

15 SECTION 6. Section 61 of said chapter 7 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 124  
16 and 125, as so appearing, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the following  
17 words:- executive office.

18 SECTION 7. Section 78 of chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
19 inserting after the word "Reserve", in line 11, as so appearing, the following words:- , United  
20 States Space Force.

21 SECTION 8. Section 17 of chapter 11 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
22 amended by striking out, in line 21, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the  
23 following words:- executive office.

24 SECTION 9. Section 1G of chapter 15 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
25 amended by inserting after the word “students”, in line 86, the following words:- , including  
26 military-connected students.

27 SECTION 10. Chapter 15D of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
28 section 7 the following section:-

29 Section 7A. For the purposes of this section, “military installation” shall mean a base,  
30 camp, post, station, yard, center or other activity under the jurisdiction of the secretary of a  
31 United States military department or, in the case of an activity in a foreign country, under the  
32 operational control of the secretary of a United States military department or the United States  
33 Secretary of Defense, regardless of the duration of operational control.

34 Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, sections 6  
35 and 7 shall not apply to a child care provider on a military installation or a facility licensed or

36 certified as a family child care provider by a branch of the United States Department of Defense  
37 or by the United States Coast Guard.

38 SECTION 11. Section 1 of chapter 15E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
39 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 6, the word “sections” and inserting  
40 in place thereof the following word:- chapters.

41 SECTION 12. Said section 1 of said chapter 15E, as so appearing, is hereby further  
42 amended by inserting after the word “Force”, in line 69, the following words:- , Space Force.

43 SECTION 13. Section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
44 hereby amended by striking out, in line 14, the words “department of veterans” and inserting in  
45 place thereof the following words:- executive office of veterans’.

46 SECTION 14. Section 49 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
47 amended by striking out, in lines 14 and 15, the words “home in the city of Chelsea” and  
48 inserting in place thereof the following word:- homes.

49 SECTION 15. Paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 of chapter 32 of the General  
50 Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the fourth subparagraph and inserting  
51 in place thereof the following subparagraph:-

52 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter or any other general or special law, rule or  
53 regulation to the contrary, a member in service of a retirement system as defined in section 1  
54 shall be provided written notice by the retirement board upon entry into service that if they  
55 qualify as a veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States, they shall be entitled to  
56 credit for active service in the armed services of the United States; provided, however, that such

57 active service shall not be credited until such member, prior to or within 1 year of vesting  
58 pursuant to this chapter, has paid into the annuity savings fund of such system, in 1 sum or in  
59 installments, upon such terms and conditions as the board may prescribe, makeup payments, for  
60 each year of creditable service sought, of an amount equal to 10 per cent of the regular annual  
61 compensation of the member when said member entered the retirement system; provided further,  
62 that such creditable service shall not be construed to include service for more than 4 years; and  
63 provided further, that such creditable service shall not be allowed for any period of active service  
64 for which said veteran has received credit pursuant to this paragraph. This paragraph shall apply  
65 to national guard and active reserve personnel, both former and present. Creditable service time,  
66 both enlisted and commissioned, may be applied toward retirement on a ratio of 5 years of  
67 national guard service or 5 years of active reserve service substitutable for each year of active  
68 service. National guard and active reserve personnel shall not be precluded from making said  
69 purchase if they qualify as a veteran after vesting or if they reach the maximum of 4 years of  
70 eligible service purchase after vesting and qualifying as a veteran; provided, however, that they  
71 enter into a purchase agreement within 5 years of the last occurring event.

72 SECTION 16. Section 15 of chapter 33 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
73 amended by adding the following paragraph:-

74 (j) There shall be a military spouse liaison appointed by the adjutant general who shall  
75 conduct outreach to and advocate on behalf of military spouses residing in the commonwealth.  
76 The duties of the military spouse liaison shall include, but not be limited to: (i) providing  
77 assistance and information to military spouses seeking professional licenses and credentials or  
78 other employment the commonwealth; (ii) coordinating research on issues facing military  
79 spouses; (iii) creating informational materials to assist military spouses and their families; (iv)

80 providing recommendations to assist spouses in accessing high quality child care; (v) developing  
81 resources in coordination with military installations to increase access to high quality child care  
82 for military families; and (vi) assisting military spouses with finding employment in relevant  
83 sectors.

84 SECTION 17. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
85 amended by inserting after clause Twenty-second H the following 2 clauses:-

86 Twenty-second I. In a city or town that accepts this clause and is certified by the  
87 commissioner of revenue to be assessing all property at full and fair cash valuation, an abatement  
88 granted pursuant clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C,  
89 Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F shall be increased annually by an amount equal to the  
90 increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index for such year. The  
91 department of revenue shall annually inform each city or town that accepts this clause of the  
92 amount of such increase.

93 Twenty-second J. In a city or town that accepts this clause and is certified by the  
94 commissioner of revenue to be assessing all property at full and fair cash valuation, a taxpayer  
95 who otherwise qualifies for an exemption pursuant to clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second A,  
96 Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F shall be granted an  
97 additional exemption the amount of which shall not exceed 100 per cent of the exemption for  
98 which the taxpayer qualifies, as may be determined by the legislative body of the city or town,  
99 subject to its charter, not later than the beginning of the fiscal year to which the additional  
100 exemption shall commence; provided, however, that the additional exemption shall be uniform  
101 for all taxpayers who qualify for an exemption under said clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second

102 A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F. Once accepted,  
103 the amount of the exemption shall continue until amended by the legislative body of the city or  
104 town. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the exemption shall be in  
105 addition to any exemption allowable pursuant to this section; provided, however, the taxable  
106 valuation of the property receiving an exemption pursuant to this clause, after all applicable  
107 exemptions, shall not be reduced below 10 per cent of its full and fair cash valuation, except  
108 through the applicability of clause Eighteenth. Acceptance of this clause by a city or town shall  
109 not increase the amount that the city or town otherwise would have been reimbursed by the  
110 commonwealth pursuant to the clause. The additional exemption contained within this clause  
111 shall not be implemented in any year in which the city or town has also accepted section 5C1/2.

112 SECTION 18. Subsection (u) of section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as so  
113 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 1113 and 1130, the figure “\$2,000” and  
114 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following figure:- \$2,500.

115 SECTION 19. Section 38GG of chapter 63 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
116 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 8 and 24, the figure “\$2,000” and inserting in place  
117 thereof, in each instance, the following figure:- \$2,500.

118 SECTION 20. Section 6 of chapter 64H of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
119 amended by striking out subsection (u) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

120 (u) Sale of a motor vehicle purchased by and for the use of a person who has suffered  
121 loss, or permanent loss of use, of both legs or both arms or 1 leg and 1 arm or by and for the use  
122 of a veteran who has been determined to be permanently disabled by the medical advisory board  
123 established under section 8C of chapter 90 and has been issued a plate displaying the words

124 “Disabled Veteran” or a Purple Heart distinctive registration plate pursuant to section 2J of said  
125 chapter 90; provided, however, that this exemption shall apply to 1 motor vehicle owned and  
126 registered only for the personal, noncommercial use of such person. A person who is otherwise  
127 eligible for this exemption and who was previously issued a Purple Heart distinctive registration  
128 plate shall not be required to forfeit such plate to remain eligible for this exemption.

129 SECTION 21. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
130 following section:-

131 Section 38. (a) For the purposes of this section, “military-connected student” shall mean a  
132 student who is an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian: (i) is a current or reserve  
133 member of the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United  
134 States Coast Guard, United States Space Force, Army Nurse Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, United  
135 States Air Force, Air National Guard or Army National Guard; or (ii) a member of a military or  
136 reserve force under clause (i) who was killed in the line of duty.

137 (b) A school district shall provide appropriate support services to a military-connected  
138 student if their parent or guardian is called or ordered to active duty pursuant to Title 10 or 32 of  
139 the United States Code and said parent or guardian notifies the district of such active duty or a  
140 student’s parent or guardian is a member of a military or reserve force and was killed in the line  
141 of duty. The school district shall provide such student with informational materials and resources  
142 and access to a: (i) certified school counselor; (ii) certified school psychologist; or (iii) school  
143 social worker.

144 (c) The department shall coordinate with the military division of the commonwealth to  
145 carry out subsection (b), including posting information about military family resources to the

146 department’s website and providing informational materials for use by school districts to inform  
147 parents and guardians of the supports available under said subsection (b).

148 (d) A school district may notify a teacher of the enrollment of a military-connected  
149 student at the request of the military-connected student’s parent or guardian to provide the  
150 teacher with the opportunity to monitor a military-connected student’s level of academic  
151 engagement and provide support as needed.

152 SECTION 22. Section 4 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
153 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 32, the word “department”, the  
154 second time it appears, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- executive office.

155 SECTION 23. Said section 4 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further  
156 amended by striking out, in line 39, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the  
157 following words:- executive office.

158 SECTION 24. Section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
159 out, in lines 172 to 186, inclusive, as so appearing, the words “pleasure passenger vehicles  
160 owned by veterans who, according to the records of the United States Veterans’ Administration,  
161 has been determined to have a service-connected disability rating of 60 per cent or greater and by  
162 reason of service in the armed forces of the United States have suffered loss or permanent loss of  
163 use of one or both feet; or loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands; or permanent  
164 impairment of vision of both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 20/200 or less  
165 in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a  
166 field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter  
167 of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees in the better eye, or

168 any other disability or handicap of such veterans which may be determined by the medical  
169 advisory board as established by section eight C, and”.

170 SECTION 25. The seventh paragraph of said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so  
171 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the third and fourth sentences.

172 SECTION 26. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking  
173 out, in lines 246 to 258, inclusive, as so appearing, the words “and the words “Disabled Veteran”  
174 for a pleasure passenger vehicle or a pick-up truck owned or leased by and used by a veteran  
175 who, according to the records of the United States Veterans’ Administration, by reason of service  
176 in the armed forces of the United States has suffered loss or permanent loss of use of one or both  
177 feet; or loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands; or permanent impairment of vision of  
178 both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with  
179 corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which  
180 the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field  
181 subtends an angular distance no greater that 20 degrees in the better eye, or any other disability  
182 or handicap”.

183 SECTION 27. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking out  
184 the twelfth paragraph, as so appearing.

185 SECTION 28. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking out  
186 the fifteenth to seventeenth paragraphs, inclusive, as so appearing.

187 SECTION 29. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking out  
188 the nineteenth to twenty-second paragraphs, inclusive, as so appearing.

189 SECTION 30. Said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 2I the  
190 following section:-

191 Section 2J. (a) The registrar shall design and maintain a series of distinct and individual  
192 license plates recognizing those who have served in the military and for those who deserve  
193 special recognition relating to or deriving from military service as provided herein.

194 (b) An individual that meets the definition of a veteran under clause forty-third of section  
195 7 of chapter 4 or section 1 of chapter 115 or who is eligible for annuity provided under section  
196 6C of said chapter 115, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of such status as determined  
197 by the registrar, shall be eligible for and entitled to a veteran license plate bearing the words  
198 "VETERAN".

199 (c) The series of distinct and individual license plates recognizing those who have served  
200 in the military and for those who deserve special recognition relating to or deriving from military  
201 service shall include license plates for:

202 (i) veterans ranked with a disability rating of not less than 60 per cent by the United  
203 States Department of Veterans Affairs, including those who have suffered the loss of a limb,  
204 permanent visual acuity loss of 20/200 in an eye, or are otherwise determined to be disabled or  
205 handicapped by the medical advisory board established in section 8C;

206 (ii) veterans who have been captured and incarcerated by foreign forces in conflict or  
207 held as prisoners of war;

208 (iii) veterans who are members of the Legion of Valor of the United States of America  
209 Inc.;

210 (iv) veterans awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor shall be entitled to a distinctive  
211 plate recognizing that status, including, subject to availability, the use of the initials of the award  
212 recipient followed by CMH signifying their award.

213 (v) veterans awarded the Purple Heart medal shall be entitled to a distinctive plate  
214 indicating that status which shall include the words “COMBAT WOUNDED”;

215 (vi) survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor shall be entitled to a distinctive plate  
216 reflecting that status and bearing the word “VETERAN”;

217 (vii) residents of the commonwealth serving in any branch of the national guard shall be  
218 entitled to a distinctive plate reflecting that status;

219 (viii) residents of the commonwealth awarded the medal of liberty pursuant to section  
220 67A of chapter 33 shall be entitled to a distinctive plate reflecting that status; and

221 (ix) The next of kin of a member of the armed forces, in possession of a Gold Star Lapel  
222 Button under the regulations of the United States Secretary of Defense, shall be entitled to a  
223 Gold Star Family distinctive plate. Said button shall not be an eligibility requirement for those  
224 who have presented other satisfactory evidence of their status, as determined by the registrar.

225 (d) A veteran who has served in the armed forces and is entitled to a veteran license plate  
226 shall also be entitled to the issuance of a decal or emblem denoting their branch of service.

227 Residents of the commonwealth who are veterans and who identify as female shall be entitled to  
228 a distinctive decal or emblem, which the registry of motor vehicles shall design and issue.

229 (e) The following individuals shall be entitled to a distinctive plate, decal or emblem  
230 denoting their award status:

231 (i) owners of private vehicles awarded 1 of the following decorations for valor or  
232 gallantry: (i) the Silver Star; (ii) the Bronze Star; (iii) the Distinguished Flying Cross; (iv) the  
233 Distinguished Service Cross; (v) the Navy Cross; (vi) the Air Force Cross; or (vii) any other  
234 similar award designated by the secretary of veterans' services; and

235 (ii) residents of the commonwealth who qualify as a Gold Star parent, child, sibling,  
236 grandchild or spouse.

237 (f) Veterans entitled to a distinctive plate shall be entitled to have a distinctive emblem or  
238 decal reflecting service in Operation Enduring Freedom or the receipt of the Iraq Campaign  
239 Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, a Persian Gulf Campaign Ribbon, the Armed Forces  
240 Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal,  
241 the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Kosovo  
242 Campaign Medal or the Prisoner of War Medal.

243 (g) A person who is widowed by a veteran who received any special recognition or status  
244 pursuant to this section shall not be required to forfeit their distinctive license plate, decal or  
245 emblem unless they cancel or fail to renew the registration for said license plate. If a veteran was  
246 eligible for special recognition or status under this section but did not apply for such special  
247 recognition or status before their death, the person widowed by said deceased veteran may apply  
248 on behalf of the deceased veteran for special recognition or status pursuant to this section.

249 (h) Special recognition or status pursuant to this section shall entitle the recipient to not  
250 more than 1 distinctive license plate, decal or emblem; provided, however, that such recipient  
251 may opt to have the distinctive plate, decal or emblem issued in a form suitable for use on a  
252 motorcycle.

253 (i) Any plate to which an individual is entitled pursuant to this section shall be issued  
254 without fee other than the established registration fee for private passenger motor vehicles and  
255 motorcycles. State-operated veterans' homes shall be reimbursed annually from the General  
256 Fund for any loss of revenue for any license plate, decal or emblem provided free of charge  
257 pursuant to this section.

258 SECTION 31. Section 244 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as inserted by section 14  
259 of chapter 154 of the acts of 2022, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 2, 28, the second  
260 time it appears, 35 and 38, the word "commissioner" and inserting in place thereof, in each  
261 instance, the following word:- secretary.

262 SECTION 32. Said section 244 of said chapter 111, as so inserted, is hereby further  
263 amended by striking out, in line 43, the word "department" and inserting in place thereof the  
264 following words:- executive office.

265 SECTION 33. Section 1 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
266 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of "Dependent" and inserting  
267 in place thereof the following definition:-

268 "Dependent", the spouse, widowed person, child or parent of a veteran, including any  
269 person who stood in the relationship of a parent to such veteran for the 5 years preceding the  
270 commencement of the veteran's wartime service; provided, however, that no child of a veteran  
271 who is more than 18 years of age shall be deemed a dependent, unless the child meets the criteria  
272 established for emancipation pursuant to section 28 of chapter 208 or section 9 of chapter 209C  
273 or unless the child is mentally or physically unable to support themselves after attaining the age  
274 of 23.

275 SECTION 34. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
276 amended by striking out, in line 25, the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place  
277 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the applicant’s.

278 SECTION 35. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
279 amended by striking out, in line 26, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following  
280 words:- the applicant.

281 SECTION 36. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
282 amended by striking out the definition of “Veteran” and inserting in place thereof the following  
283 definition:-

284 “Veteran”, a person who: (a) is a veteran as defined in clause Forty-third of section 7 of  
285 chapter 4; (b) served on active duty in the armed forces for not less than 90 days and whose last  
286 discharge or release was under conditions other than dishonorable; (c) served on active duty,  
287 including active duty solely for training purposes, in the armed forces and was awarded a  
288 service-connected disability or who died in such service under conditions other than  
289 dishonorable; (d) served in the national guard or as a reservist in any branch of the United States  
290 Armed Forces, including active duty solely for training purposes, and was awarded a service-  
291 connected disability or who died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable; or (e)  
292 is determined to be a veteran according to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;  
293 provided, however, that in any case, the service of such person qualified under clause (a) through  
294 clause (e), inclusive, was entered into or served in the commonwealth or such person has resided  
295 in the commonwealth for not less than 1 day, except for the purpose of determining the  
296 residential eligibility of a deceased veteran’s dependents.

297 SECTION 37. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
298 amended by striking out, in lines 54 and 55, the words “as defined in clause Forty-third of  
299 section seven of chapter four.”.

300 SECTION 38. Section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
301 striking out, in lines 1 and 2, the words “as defined in clause Forty-third of section seven of  
302 chapter four”.

303 SECTION 39. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
304 amended by striking out, in lines 7 and 20, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
305 instance, the following word:- the secretary’s.

306 SECTION 40. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
307 amended by striking out, in lines 8, 12, 20, 66, 82, 103, 123, 131, 139 and 150, the word “He”  
308 and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:-The secretary.

309 SECTION 41. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
310 amended by striking out, in lines 12, 63, 71, 89, 98, 113, 118 and 119, the word “him” and  
311 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the secretary.

312 SECTION 42. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
313 amended by striking out, in lines 13, 14, 61, 118, 125, 129, 134 and 142, the word “he” and  
314 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the secretary.

315 SECTION 43. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
316 amended by striking out, in line 39, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
317 words:- the person’s.

318 SECTION 44. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
319 amended by striking out, in line 45, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
320 words:- a party’s.

321 SECTION 45. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
322 amended by striking out the sixth paragraph.

323 SECTION 46. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
324 amended by striking out, in line 82, the words “him or by his” and inserting in place thereof the  
325 following words:- the secretary or the secretary’s.

326 SECTION 47. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
327 amended by striking out, in line 98, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
328 words:- the applicant’s.

329 SECTION 48. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
330 amended by striking out, in lines 153 and 156, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in  
331 each instance, the following word:- a.

332 SECTION 49. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
333 amended by striking out, in line 155, the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the  
334 following word:- chair.

335 SECTION 50. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
336 amended by adding the following 3 paragraphs:-

337 The secretary shall provide, subject to appropriation, a medical assistance benefit in  
338 addition to the other benefits provided in this chapter. A recipient of the medical assistance

339 benefit shall, where applicable, make use of private, state or federally-funded resources before  
340 seeking aid under this paragraph. The medical assistance benefit shall include, but not be limited  
341 to, covering the cost of necessary medical visits, procedures, prescriptions and other such  
342 treatment as the secretary shall determine through regulations. The secretary shall, by regulation  
343 or otherwise, make provision to keep the program efficient and economical.

344         The secretary shall provide, subject to appropriation, a behavioral health assistance  
345 benefit in addition to the other benefits provided in this chapter. A recipient of the behavioral  
346 health assistance benefit shall, where applicable, make use of private, state or federally-funded  
347 resources before seeking aid under this paragraph. The behavioral health assistance benefit shall  
348 include, but not be limited to, coverage for the cost of those necessary outpatient behavioral  
349 health assessments, evaluations, visits, prescriptions and other such treatment as the secretary  
350 shall determine through regulations. The secretary shall, by regulation or otherwise, make  
351 provision to keep the program efficient and economical.

352         The secretary shall provide, subject to appropriation, a dental assistance benefit in  
353 addition to the other benefits provided in this chapter. A recipient of the dental assistance benefit  
354 shall, where applicable, make use of private, state or federally-funded resources before seeking  
355 aid under this paragraph. The dental assistance benefit shall include, but not be limited to,  
356 coverage for the cost of those necessary medical visits, procedures, prescriptions and other such  
357 treatment as the secretary shall determine through regulations. The secretary shall, by regulation  
358 or otherwise, make provision to keep the program efficient and economical.

359 SECTION 51. Section 2B of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
360 striking out, in lines 7 and 8, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the  
361 following word:- a.

362 SECTION 52. Section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
363 striking out, in line 17, the word “his”.

364 SECTION 53. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
365 amended by striking out, in line 18, the words “in behalf of a civil war” and inserting in place  
366 thereof the following words:- on behalf of a.

367 SECTION 54. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
368 amended by striking out, in lines 18 and 19, the words “his wife or widow” and inserting in place  
369 thereof the following words:- a veteran’s spouse or widowed person.

370 SECTION 55. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
371 amended by striking out, in line 20, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
372 words:- the secretary.

373 SECTION 56. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
374 amended by striking out, in line 20, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
375 words:- the agent’s.

376 SECTION 57. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
377 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following  
378 words:- the veteran.

379 SECTION 58. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
380 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
381 words:- the veteran’s.

382 SECTION 59. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
383 amended by striking out, in lines 25 and 27, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof, in  
384 each instance, the following words:- the agent.

385 SECTION 60. Section 4 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
386 striking out, in lines 4, 5, 8 and 20, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
387 instance, the following words:- the applicants.

388 SECTION 61. Said section 4 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
389 amended by striking out, in line 14, the word “widow” and inserting in place thereof the  
390 following words:- widowed person.

391 SECTION 62. Section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
392 striking out, in lines 2 and 55, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the  
393 following words:- the veteran.

394 SECTION 63. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
395 amended by striking out, in lines 3 to 10, inclusive, the words “unless he has actually resided  
396 within the commonwealth for 1 day preceding the date of his application for such benefits, nor to  
397 any dependent of a veteran unless he has actually resided within the commonwealth continuously  
398 for three years next preceding the date of his application for such benefits, nor unless the veteran  
399 of whom he is a dependent has actually resided within the commonwealth continuously for three  
400 years next preceding the date of such dependent’s application for such benefits” and inserting in

401 place thereof the following words:- or to a dependent of a veteran unless the veteran or the  
402 dependent has actually resided within the commonwealth for 1 day preceding the date of the  
403 application for such benefits.

404 SECTION 64. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
405 amended by striking out, in lines 16, 25, 26, 45, 59, 62, 63, 65 and 66, the word “his” and  
406 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- their.

407 SECTION 65. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
408 amended by striking out, in lines 22 and 74, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof, in  
409 each instance, the following word:- them.

410 SECTION 66. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
411 amended by striking out, in line 27, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
412 words:- the applicant.

413 SECTION 67. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
414 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “himself” and inserting in place thereof the  
415 following word:- themselves.

416 SECTION 68. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
417 amended by striking out in lines 39, 43, 51, 54, 102 and 103, the word “his” and inserting in  
418 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the veteran’s.

419 SECTION 69. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
420 amended by striking out, in line 42, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
421 words:- the secretary’s.

422 SECTION 70. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
423 amended by striking out, in line 57, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
424 words:- the veteran.

425 SECTION 71. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
426 amended by striking out, in line 59, the word “He” and inserting in place thereof the following  
427 word:- They.

428 SECTION 72. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
429 amended by striking out, in line 61, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following  
430 word:- they.

431 SECTION 73. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
432 amended by striking out, in line 92, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
433 words:- the veterans’ agent’s.

434 SECTION 74. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
435 amended by striking out, in lines 95, 99 and 103, the word “mother” and inserting in place  
436 thereof, in each instance, the following word:- parent.

437 SECTION 75. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
438 amended by striking out, in line 100, the word “her” and inserting in place thereof the following  
439 words:- the parent’s.

440 SECTION 76. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
441 amended by striking out, in line 106, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
442 words:- the secretary.

443 SECTION 77. The seventh paragraph of said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so  
444 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- An increase in income from a  
445 cost-of-living adjustment made to social security, supplemental security income or social  
446 security disability insurance shall not render a recipient ineligible for benefits under this chapter  
447 in the year that the cost-of-living adjustment was issued.

448 SECTION 78. Section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
449 striking out, in lines 2, 8, 11, 57, 60 and 63 and 64, the words “mother or father” and inserting in  
450 place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- parent.

451 SECTION 79. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
452 amended by striking out, in lines 16 and 17, the words “mother’s or father’s” and inserting in  
453 place thereof the following word:- parent’s.

454 SECTION 80. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
455 amended by striking out, in line 33, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
456 word:- the person.

457 SECTION 81. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
458 amended by striking out, in line 40, the words “mother and father” and inserting in place thereof  
459 the following word:- parents.

460 SECTION 82. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
461 amended by striking out, in line 41, the words “in his” and inserting in place thereof the  
462 following words:- within the secretary’s.

463 SECTION 83. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
464 amended by striking out, in line 45, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
465 words:- the secretary’s.

466 SECTION 84. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
467 amended by striking out, in lines 47 and 48, the words “the petition in his own name” and  
468 inserting in place thereof the following words:- a petition.

469 SECTION 85. Section 6 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
470 striking out, in line 3, the word “him”.

471 SECTION 86. Said section 6 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
472 amended by striking out, in line 12, each time it appears, the word “him” and inserting in place  
473 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the secretary.

474 SECTION 87. Said section 6 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
475 amended by striking out, in lines 15 and 19, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
476 instance, the following words:- the secretary.

477 SECTION 88. Section 6A of said chapter 115 is hereby repealed.

478 SECTION 89. Section 6B of said chapter 115, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
479 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 19, 28 and 35, the words “the sum of \$2,000” and  
480 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following figure:- \$2,250.

481 SECTION 90. Said section 6B of said chapter 115 is hereby further amended by striking  
482 out the figure “\$2,250”, inserted by section 89, each time it appears, and inserting in place  
483 thereof, in each instance, the following figure:- \$2,500.

484 SECTION 91. Said section 6B of said chapter 115, as appearing in the 2022 Official  
485 Edition, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 20, 29 and 35 and 36 the words “two  
486 equal payments on August and February 1” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the  
487 following words:- “1 payment on August 1.”

488 SECTION 92. Said section 6B of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
489 amended by striking out, in lines 21 and 30, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
490 instance, the following words:- the veteran’s.

491 SECTION 93. Said section 6B of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
492 amended by striking out, in lines 31 and 32 the words “, provided that the surviving spouse does  
493 not remarry,”.

494 SECTION 94. Section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
495 striking out, in line 4, the word “He” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- The  
496 burial agent.

497 SECTION 95. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
498 amended by striking out, in line 8, the words “his wife, or his widow” and inserting in place  
499 thereof the following words:- the veteran’s spouse, or widowed person.

500 SECTION 96. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
501 amended by striking out, in line 10, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
502 words:- the burial agent.

503 SECTION 97. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
504 amended by striking out, in lines 12 and 14, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
505 instance, the following words:- the burial agent.

506 SECTION 98. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
507 amended by striking out, in line 17 and 20, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
508 instance, the following words:- the person’s.

509 SECTION 99. Section 8 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
510 striking out, in line 23, the words “widow, or widower” and inserting in place thereof the  
511 following words:- widowed person.

512 SECTION 100. Section 9 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
513 striking out, in line 3, the words “, as defined in clause Forty-third of section seven of chapter  
514 four,”.

515 SECTION 101. Said chapter 115 is hereby amended by inserting after section 9 the  
516 following section:-

517 Section 9A. The executive office of veterans’ services shall operate, maintain and expand  
518 the Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial cemetery located in the city known as the town of  
519 Agawam and the Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial cemetery located in the town of  
520 Winchendon and may add new cemetery locations, subject to the availability of funds, to meet  
521 veterans’ and veteran dependents’ needs; provided, however, that the office shall maintain the  
522 cemetery grounds, facilities and infrastructure and shall manage the burial and interment  
523 services. The executive office may adopt additional rules, regulations and policies as necessary  
524 to fulfill its responsibilities and ensure the proper functioning of the cemeteries under its control.

525 SECTION 102. Section 10 of said chapter 115, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
526 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 23, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the  
527 following word:- such director’s.

528 SECTION 103. Said section 10 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
529 amended by striking out, in lines 31 and 32, the words “duties of his office” and inserting in  
530 place thereof the following words:- office’s duties.

531 SECTION 104. Said section 10 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
532 amended by striking out, in line 32, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
533 words:- the director’s.

534 SECTION 105. Said section 10 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
535 amended by striking out, in line 37, the words “his duties as treasurer of the district” and  
536 inserting in place thereof the following words:- the district treasurer’s duties.

537 SECTION 106. Section 11 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
538 striking out, in line 2, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the  
539 mayors.

540 SECTION 107. Said section 11 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
541 amended by striking out, in lines 3 and 4, the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the  
542 following word:- chair.

543 SECTION 108. Said section 11 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
544 amended by striking out, in line 5, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
545 words:- the town manager’s.

546 SECTION 109. Said section 11 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
547 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
548 words:- the treasurer’s.

549 SECTION 110. Section 15 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
550 striking out, in line 4, the words “he, and his duly accredited agents,” and inserting in place  
551 thereof the following words:- the director and the director’s agents.

552 SECTION 111. Said section 15 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
553 amended by striking out, in line 11, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
554 word:- a.

555 SECTION 112. Section 16 of said chapter 115, inserted by section 53 of chapter 126 of  
556 the acts of 2022, is hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the following sentence:-  
557 The board shall ensure that veterans receive state-based veteran benefits if they receive: (i) an  
558 other than honorable discharge on the basis of sex, race, color, religious creed, national origin,  
559 age, genetic information, ancestry, marital status or disability; or (ii) any United States  
560 Department of Veterans Affairs category eligible for a discharge upgrade, including, but not  
561 limited to, mental health conditions, military sexual trauma and traumatic brain injury.

562 SECTION 113. Said section 16 of said chapter 115, as so inserted, is hereby further  
563 amended by striking out, in lines 37, 40 and 50, the word “department” and inserting in place  
564 thereof the following words:- executive office.

565 SECTION 114. Chapter 115A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out  
566 section 1, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following  
567 section:-

568 Section 1. A person who is a veteran as defined in section 1 of chapter 115 shall be  
569 entitled to out-patient treatment at, admission to and hospitalization in a state-operated veterans'  
570 home, subject to the provisions of section 3.

571 SECTION 115. Section 9 of said chapter 115A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
572 striking out, in line 3, the words “home in the city of Chelsea” and inserting in place thereof the  
573 following word:- homes.

574 SECTION 116. Section 12 of said chapter 115A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
575 striking out, in line 1, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
576 executive office.

577 SECTION 117. Said section 12 of said chapter 115A, as so appearing, is hereby further  
578 amended by striking out, in line 22, the words “department of veterans” and inserting in place  
579 thereof the following words:- executive office of veterans’.

580 SECTION 118. Section 3 of chapter 115B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
581 hereby amended by striking out, in line 16 to 18, inclusive, the words “home in the city of  
582 Chelsea; and the chair of the board of trustees of the veterans’ home in the city of Holyoke” and  
583 inserting in place thereof the following words:- homes.

584 SECTION 119. Section 73B of chapter 272 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
585 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 18, the second time it appears, and 23, the word  
586 “department” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- executive  
587 office.

588 SECTION 120. Section 11 of chapter 276A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
589 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 6 and 13, the words “the department” and inserting in  
590 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the executive office.

591 SECTION 121. Section 3 of chapter 71 of the acts of 1996, as amended by section 2 of  
592 chapter 468 of the acts of 2002, is hereby further amended by striking out the second paragraph.

593 SECTION 122. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a member of  
594 a retirement system who is a member in service and a veteran who failed to make the purchase  
595 authorized in paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 of chapter 32 of the General Laws  
596 pursuant to chapter 71 of the acts of 1996 shall be given a 1-time opportunity to apply to the  
597 retirement system to make said purchase within 1 year from the effective date of this act. Each  
598 retirement system shall provide written notice to all members in service of their potential  
599 eligibility for this purchase within 90 days of the effective date of this act.

600 SECTION 123. (a) The secretary of veterans’ services, in coordination with the executive  
601 office of health and human services, shall convene a working group to review alternative  
602 therapies for mental health treatments for veterans. The working group shall: (i) study whether  
603 psychedelic therapy is associated with improved outcomes among veterans with diagnosed  
604 mental health disorders; (ii) evaluate literature, research trials and expert opinions to determine if  
605 psychedelic therapy is associated with improved outcomes regarding mental health treatment for  
606 veterans; and (iii) issue recommendations regarding the provision of psychedelic therapy to treat  
607 veterans with mental health disorders in the commonwealth. As used in this section,  
608 “psychedelic therapy” shall mean the use of psilocybin, ketamine, or 3,4-

609 methylenedioxymethamphetamine under the direction of a health care provider to treat mental  
610 health disorders.

611 (b) The secretary shall appoint the following members to the working group: 2 members  
612 who shall represent medical centers or hospitals in the commonwealth that serve veterans; 2  
613 members who shall represent health insurance companies; 2 members who shall represent  
614 veterans' services organizations; 1 member who shall represent an organization currently  
615 studying the subject matter of alternative therapies for mental health treatment of veterans; and  
616 such other members with experience in behavioral health or veterans' services as the secretary  
617 deems necessary. The secretary shall designate a chair of the working group from the  
618 membership of the group.

619 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall file a report of its findings and  
620 any recommendations with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint  
621 committee on veterans and federal affairs and the joint committee on mental health, substance  
622 use and recovery.

623 SECTION 124. Sections 18 and 19 shall take effect on taxable years beginning on  
624 January 1, 2024.

625 SECTION 125. Sections 20 and 24 through 30, inclusive, shall take effect 6 months after  
626 the effective date of this act.

627 SECTION 126. Sections 50 and 89 shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

628 SECTION 127. Section 90 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.