



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

**SENATOR TONY HWANG**  
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1421  
E-MAIL: [Tony.Hwang@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Tony.Hwang@cga.ct.gov)  
WEBSITE: [www.SenatorHwang.com](http://www.SenatorHwang.com)

**ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
HOUSING COMMITTEE  
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## Veterans' Affairs Committee Joint Favorable Bills in the 2015 Legislative Session

### [HB-5110](#): AN ACT CONCERNING A VETERANS' DAY OBSERVANCE AT THE ROCKY HILL VETERANS' HOME

To require the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs to hold suitable exercises in the Veterans' Home annually on November 11 to recognize resident veterans for their military service.

### [HB-5334](#): AN ACT PROVIDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO VETERANS

To provide that ten percent (10%) of the value of any property belonging to a veteran of the armed forces who served in time of war is exempt from taxation.

### [HB-6375](#): AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VETERANS TO AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

To create a veterans to agriculture program which provides tax incentives to veterans who start an agricultural business.

### [HB-6376](#): AN ACT CONCERNING VEHICLES FROM THE STATE MOTOR POOL

To require the Commissioner of Administrative Services to offer vehicles from the state motor pool which are no longer in use to disadvantaged veterans prior to offering such vehicles for sale at auction to the public.

### [HB-6377](#): AN ACT CONCERNING TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR DONATIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO NONPROFIT VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

To provide a tax incentive to any taxpayer in an amount equal to twice the fair market value of any motor vehicle as determined by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles donated in the taxable year to a nonprofit organization serving veterans.

### [HB-6378](#): AN ACT PROVIDING VETERANS' PREFERENCES IN THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND HOUSING AUTHORITY PROJECTS

To give preference in affordable or subsidized housing admission, as determined by the Commissioner of Housing, to veterans meeting the federal veterans' preference requirements.

[HB-6383](#): AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL COSTS OF CERTAIN VETERAN AMPUTEES

To require the Department of Veterans' Affairs to cover the cost of medical services or equipment relating to the loss in service of an arm or leg when such costs are not covered by the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs.

[HB-6385](#): AN ACT PROVIDING FREE ADMISSION TO AND PARKING AT STATE PARKS FOR CONNECTICUT VETERANS

To require the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to issue any state veteran a nontransferable lifetime pass permitting free parking, admission and boat access for use at any state park, forest, or recreational facility.

[HB-6389](#): AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY RAPID REHOUSING

To establish a task force to study the feasibility of implementing the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program model for veterans.

[HB-6391](#): AN ACT INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

To conduct a study of the Connecticut Military Support program within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to determine whether there is a need to expand state provided mental health services for members of the armed forces, veterans and their families.

[HB-6503](#): AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE VETERANS' HOME

To establish, within available appropriations, a permanent daily shuttle service at the Veterans' Home for use by its residents. The shuttle shall provide transportation to the residents of the home and travel to and from locations, including, but not limited to, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' West Haven campus, based on the needs of such residents.

[HB-6778](#): AN ACT CONCERNING VETERANS

The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall initiate a study to determine what hardships are prevalent among the state's veterans. The department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the findings of such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' affairs on or before February 1, 2016.

[HB-6779](#): AN ACT INCREASING THE EXEMPTION FROM THE INCOME TAX FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY

This bill would phase in a complete income tax exemption for military retirement pay by exempting 50% of military retirement pay for the tax year commencing January 1, 2015; 60% of military retirement pay for the tax year commencing January 1, 2016; 70% of military retirement pay for the tax year commencing January 1, 2017; 80% of such income for the tax year commencing January 1, 2018; 90% of military retirement pay for the tax year commencing January 1, 2019; and 100% of military retirement pay for tax years after January 1, 2020.

**HB-6780: AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS COMMON TO VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS**

To provide continuing education specified towards the unique issues that veterans face. The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations that approve continuing education coursework appropriate for Chiropractors, Nurses, Psychologists, Social Workers and Alcohol and Drug Counselors on the subject of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and suicide prevention training.

**SB-116: AN ACT INCREASING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**

To set tax exemptions for a veterans' house, and the land where the house is built, belonging to veterans or those who hold their property in trust, would be exempt from local property taxes up to \$20,000. In addition, property, not more than \$6,000, would be exempted from taxes as long as that property is held by a veteran, in trust for a veteran, or service member who is a resident of this state. Also, this bill would put a sliding scale for property tax exemptions for those who have a disability rating by the United States Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Those with disability ratings from 10% to 25% will receive \$3,000, \$4,000 in any case in which the rating is more than 25% but not more than 50%, \$5,000 in any case in where such rating is more than 50% but not more than 75%; and \$6,000 in any case in where such person has attained 65 years of age or the disability rating is more than 75%; or is receiving a pension or compensation from the United States Dept. of Veterans Affairs due to the loss of a leg or arm during service as determined by the rules of the United States Pension Office or the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

**SB-520: AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY**

That military retirement pay be 100% excluded from state income taxes.

**SB-522: AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ADMINISTERED BY NURSING HOMES TO VETERANS**

To strike from existing law that nursing homes or residential care homes may require prescription drugs obtained through a prescription drug program or health plan offered by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs be dispensed and administered according to each facility's or home's policies. These policies, in certain situations, precludes veterans from being able to use medications obtained by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**SB-523: AN ACT WAIVING INTEREST ON DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**

This bill removes the ability of the towns to charge interest on property taxes for those who have been called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States, and are serving outside the state on the final day that payment of such property tax is due, or has been residing in the state for less than one year since returning from serving outside the state. Any interest waived because of this section would be reinstated if a member of the armed forces fails to pay the amount of any overdue property taxes after living in the state for at least one year after returning from serving outside the state.

**SB-532: AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION WAIVERS FOR CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE**

Charter Oak State College currently charges credit based fees in lieu of tuition which is why the state veterans' tuition waiver is not in effect. This bill would provide statutory language that brings Charter Oak in line with the state's other colleges and universities that charge tuition and provide veterans with the veterans' tuition waiver.

**SB-691: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VETERANS' CRISIS LINE**

To help prevent suicides amongst the veteran community by establishing a suicide crisis line specifically for veterans.

**SB-694: AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO VETERANS ON STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES**

This bill would study Connecticut's colleges and universities to find the best practices for the veterans OASIS program. The various OASIS programs run independently on individual campuses to help ensure that veterans' are aware of the benefits that they can use to further their education in the civilian world.

**SB-903: AN ACT CONCERNING VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

To make technical changes to certain veterans' affairs statutes in order to make them gender neutral.

**SB-904: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE HUSKY WOMEN VETERANS' PROGRAM**

To direct the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish a women veterans' program to conduct outreach to women veterans for the purpose of improving awareness of eligibility for federal and state veterans' benefits and services and to review programs, research projects and other initiatives available to women veterans'.

**SB-905: AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM FOR THE TREATMENT OF VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**

To require the Department of Health, in consultation with the department of Veterans Affairs, to conduct a study into the implementation of a program for the treatment of veterans who have Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The study should focus on 1) protocols and therapies for TBI and PTSD; 2) types of health care providers needed to implement such programs; 3) an analysis of the cost of TBI and PTSD disorders and any available federal and state funding to treat them.

**SB-906: AN ACT CREATING THE INCARCERATED VETERANS REINTEGRATION COUNCIL**

To establish an Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council within the Department of Correction. The Council is charged with developing strategies and procedures for facilitating the reintegration of incarcerated veterans into the community and advising the Commissioner of Correction regarding goals and recommendations.

[SB-1015](#): AN ACT EXPANDING PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

This bill would create a state-wide model based off of the New London County veterans' jail diversion program, where the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has partnered with the Judicial Branch.

[SB-1016](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE DIGITIZATION OF MILITARY RECORDS

To make military records available through a wider distribution and to preserve the records for future generations.