



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7064

LCO No. 3525



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 27-135 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2019*):

4 (b) (1) Any city or town that has not established its own local
5 veterans' advisory committee separate from one or more other cities or
6 towns pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and does not otherwise
7 provide funding for a veterans' service officer shall designate (A) a city
8 or town employee, or (B) a volunteer who is a resident of such city or
9 town, and (i) is a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
10 or (ii) has practical experience handling veterans' issues, to serve as a
11 [veterans' service contact person] municipal veterans' representative in
12 such city or town. The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall
13 annually send to the chief executive officer of any such city or town an
14 electronic notification of such chief executive officer's duty to so
15 designate a city or town employee or volunteer in accordance with this
16 subsection. Such chief executive officer shall, not later than thirty days

17 after receipt of such notification, submit to the Office of Advocacy and
18 Assistance, as described in subsection (b) of section 27-102l, as
19 amended by this act, the name and electronic mail address of the city
20 or town employee or volunteer so designated. As used in this
21 subdivision, "chief executive officer" means the officer described in
22 section 7-193.

23 (2) [Any city or town employee designated as a veterans' service
24 contact person] Each municipal veterans' representative shall carry out
25 the duties described in subsection (a) of this section and shall complete
26 a training course conducted by the Office of Advocacy and Assistance,
27 as described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 27-102l, as
28 amended by this act, or attend a training session conducted by the
29 manager of said office, as described in subparagraph (A) of
30 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of said section. [Each employee so
31 designated prior to July 1, 2016, shall complete such training course
32 prior to January 1, 2017. Each employee so] Each municipal veterans'
33 representative designated on or after [July 1, 2016] October 1, 2019,
34 shall complete such training course not later than one year after the
35 date of such designation. Upon completion of such training course, a
36 [veterans' service contact person] municipal veterans' representative
37 may thereafter receive electronically any new or updated training
38 information from the Office of Advocacy and Assistance and shall not
39 be required to complete any other such training course.

40 Sec. 2. Subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection (b) of section
41 27-102l of the general statutes are repealed and the following is
42 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

43 (b) (1) The commissioner may appoint a manager to administer an
44 Office of Advocacy and Assistance for the aid and benefit of veterans
45 and their spouses, eligible dependents and family members. The office
46 shall have a staff of not less than eight men and women, including six
47 veterans' service officers, and clerical personnel. The manager and
48 veterans' service officers shall be veterans, as defined in subsection (a)
49 of section 27-103, or veterans who were awarded the armed forces

50 expeditionary medal for service by the armed forces.

51 (2) (A) The manager shall develop a training module on assisting
52 and serving women veterans with regard to state or federal services or
53 benefits and identifying and advising such veterans of community or
54 nonprofit programs focused on assisting and serving such veterans.
55 The manager shall hold and provide instruction for an annual training
56 session, in accordance with such module, to each veterans' [services]
57 service officer and any [veterans' service contact person] municipal
58 veterans' representative, as described in subsection (b) of section 27-
59 135, as amended by this act, or representative from an Operation
60 Academic Support for Incoming Service Members center at a public
61 institution of higher education in this state.

62 (B) At least one of the veterans' service officers shall be a woman
63 having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans,
64 who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and, effective
65 upon the next opening of a veterans' service officer position occurring
66 on or after July 1, 2010, at least two of the veterans' service officers
67 shall be individuals having bilingual proficiency in English and
68 Spanish, within existing authorized positions. Each veterans' service
69 officer shall (i) successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits not
70 later than one year after commencement of employment, (ii) attend the
71 training session described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and
72 (iii) be assigned to one of the five congressional districts of the state.

73 (3) The office staff shall, at least twice annually, conduct a training
74 course for any [city or town employee designated a veterans' service
75 contact person pursuant to subsection (b) of section 27-135] municipal
76 veterans' representative. The office staff shall include in such training
77 course a summary of state and federal services and benefits, the duties
78 to be carried out by each [veterans' service contact person] municipal
79 veterans' representative, as described in subsection (a) of section 27-
80 135, and any assistance the office staff may provide to any [veterans'
81 service contact person] municipal veterans' representative related to
82 such duties.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	27-135(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	27-1021(b)(1) to (3)

VA *Joint Favorable*