



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 150

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5412

House of Representatives, March 24, 2026

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. FOSTER of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACCOUNT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established an
2 account to be known as the "Military Department emergency response
3 account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account
4 shall contain any moneys required or permitted by law to be deposited
5 in the account. Any balance remaining in the account at the end of any
6 fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next
7 succeeding.

8 (b) The Adjutant General shall administer the account. Moneys in the
9 account shall be used for the purpose of covering costs incurred by the
10 Military Department, or by other state personnel and resources, in
11 responding to an emergency, including, but not limited to, any natural
12 disaster, civil emergency or other event requiring a state response,
13 whenever federal moneys for such purpose are not immediately

14 available, provided any such use shall be approved by the Governor in
15 consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
16 Protection.

17 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
18 the Treasurer shall transfer the sum of five hundred thousand dollars
19 from the Military Relief Fund, established under section 27-100a of the
20 general statutes, to the Military Department emergency response
21 account, established under section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "Military Department shall" was changed to "Adjutant General shall" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Military Dept.	Military Relief Fund - Transfer from	500,000	None
Military Dept.	Military Department Emergency Response Account - Transfer to	500,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill creates a separate, nonlapsing account called the Military Department Emergency Response Account and transfers \$500,000 from the Military Relief Fund to this new account. As of March 19, 2026, the Military Relief Fund has a balance of \$948,081.

The Out Years

There is no fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5412****AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACCOUNT.****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the “Military Department Emergency Response” account as a separate, nonlapsing account for the adjutant general to administer. Under the bill, the account must cover costs:

1. the state incurs in responding to an emergency (for example, a natural disaster or civil emergency), and
2. when federal funds are not immediately available for this purpose, subject to gubernatorial approval and in consultation with the emergency services and public protection commissioner.

The bill requires (1) the account to hold any money the law requires or allows to be deposited in it and (2) any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year to be carried over for the next fiscal year.

Under the bill, the treasurer must transfer \$500,000 for FY 27 from the Military Relief Fund to the account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND***Military Relief Fund***

The Military Relief Fund gives monetary grants to service members and their families who are experiencing financial hardship due to (1) military service or (2) a serious injury or illness or the death of the service member or immediate family member. By law, the Connecticut

Military Department is responsible for determining applicants' eligibility and disbursing aid, to the extent funds are available (CGS § 27-100a; Conn. Agencies Regs., § 27-100a-1 et seq.).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/10/2026)