

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-5415

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VETERANS' AND MILITARY HEALTHCARE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES IN NAVIGATING FEDERAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR VETERANS, MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 27 \$ | FY 28 \$ |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Healthcare Advocate, Off. | IF - Cost | 130,500 | 257,000 |

Note: IF=Insurance Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which establishes an Office of the Veterans' and Military Healthcare Ombudsman within the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, results in a cost to the Insurance Fund of \$130,500 in FY 27 and \$257,000 in FY 28 and annually thereafter associated with the new position. The bill requires the Ombudsman to help veterans and their caregivers navigate the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care system, as well as establish and maintain a veterans' and military health care education course.

The annualized cost for the new position is expected to be \$138,000 in salary and \$119,000 in fringe benefits beginning in FY 28. Half-year personnel costs in FY 27 are expected to be \$69,000 and \$59,500 respectively, reflecting a six-month search and appointment with a start date of January 1, 2027. Other expenses for the new position are

Primary Analyst: AB
Contributing Analyst(s): TM, JP
Reviewer: JS

3/19/26

expected to total \$2,000 in FY 27 for a laptop and related supplies.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.