



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5293

LCO No. 716



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND A CONNECTICUT VETERANS CEMETERY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 27-122a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services
4 shall transfer to the Veterans' Home and Hospital Commission two
5 certain pieces or parcels of land known as Plot # 6, containing thirty
6 acres, more or less, situated on the north side of River Road in the town
7 of Middletown, county of Middlesex, and state of Connecticut, and
8 being bounded and described as follows: As to the first piece or parcel;
9 Commencing at a point in the northerly side of River Road being the
10 southeast corner of the land herein described, thence running N 31
11 degrees E a distance of 286 feet, more or less, to the right-of-way of the
12 Penn Central Railroad (Valley Line), thence running westerly along said
13 right-of-way a distance of 2720 feet, more or less, thence running
14 southerly 80 feet, more or less, to River Road, thence running

15 southeasterly along the northern boundary of River Road a distance of
16 530 feet, more or less, to a brook, thence running N 80 degrees E along
17 the north side of River Road to a bend in said road a distance of 380 feet,
18 more or less, thence S 82 degrees E a distance of 1160 feet, more or less
19 along the northern side of River Road to the point and place of
20 beginning. As to the second piece or parcel of land being a small piece
21 or parcel located on the northerly side of the Penn Central Railroad
22 (Valley Line) right-of-way, bounded on the northerly and westerly side
23 by the Connecticut River and on the southerly side by said railroad
24 right-of-way and on the easterly side by property of the Feldspar
25 Corporation. Said two pieces or parcels of land contain a total area of
26 thirty acres, more or less, and are shown on a map or plan titled, "The
27 Connecticut State Hospital Middletown, Conn. Scale 1" = 200' 1922".

28 [(b)] (2) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services
29 shall transfer to the Veterans' Home certain land in the city of
30 Middletown, under the supervision and control of said commissioner,
31 in exchange for the transfer by the Veterans' Home and Hospital
32 Commission to the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
33 Services of certain land comprised of pieces and parcels of the land
34 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection [(a)] of equal acreage, the
35 exact boundaries of the lands to be exchanged to be decided by the
36 Commissioner of Administrative Services, with the advice and
37 assistance of all parties within the six-month period following June 14,
38 1979.

39 [(c)] (3) The land transferred to the commission under [subsections
40 (a) and (b)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of this [section] subsection and not
41 transferred to the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
42 Services and the Connecticut Valley Hospital shall be used by the
43 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the establishment and
44 maintenance of a veterans' cemetery.

45 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
46 shall designate one or more parcels of land already under the custody

47 and control of the state, or newly acquire one or more parcels of land in
48 the state, for the establishment and maintenance of a veterans' cemetery
49 in addition to the veterans' cemetery established and maintained under
50 subsection (a) of this section.

51 Sec. 2. Section 27-122b of the general statutes is repealed and the
52 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

53 (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means any person who is a
54 veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who (1) has completed at least
55 twenty years of qualifying service, as described in and computed under
56 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, in the Connecticut
57 National Guard; or (2) was killed in action, or who died as a result of
58 accident or illness sustained while performing active service, in the
59 United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard or
60 Space Force or any women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized
61 pursuant to an Act of Congress, or in the Connecticut National Guard.

62 (b) (1) Any veteran may, by letter or other communication addressed
63 to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or by will, request that upon
64 his or her death his or her body be buried in [a veterans' cemetery] one
65 of the veterans' cemeteries established pursuant to section 27-122a, as
66 amended by this act, or (2) the spouse or other next of kin of any such
67 veteran may apply to the commissioner to have the body of such veteran
68 buried in [said veterans' cemetery, and in] one of said veterans'
69 cemeteries. In either case under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection,
70 such request shall be granted.

71 (c) (1) Any member or former member of the armed forces, as defined
72 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who is a resident of this state and is
73 entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from
74 time to time, or would have been entitled to retirement pay under said
75 chapter [,] but for the fact that [the person] such member or former
76 member is under sixty years of age, may by letter or other
77 communication addressed to the commissioner, or by will, request that

78 upon his or her death his or her body will be buried in [said veterans'
79 cemetery] one of the veterans' cemeteries established pursuant to
80 section 27-122a, as amended by this act, or (2) the spouse or other next
81 of kin of any such member or former member may apply to the
82 commissioner to have the body of such member or former member
83 buried in [said veterans' cemetery, and, in] one of said veterans'
84 cemeteries. In either case under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection,
85 such request shall be granted.

86 (d) (1) (A) Any person who served in the Hmong Laotian special
87 guerilla units, which units served in the United States secret war in the
88 Kingdom of Laos during the Vietnam War, may, by letter or other
89 communication addressed to the commissioner, or by will, request that
90 upon his or her death his or her body be buried in [a veterans' cemetery]
91 one of the veterans' cemeteries established pursuant to section 27-122a,
92 as amended by this act, or (B) the spouse or other next of kin of any such
93 person may apply to the commissioner to have the body of such person
94 buried in [said veterans' cemetery, and in] one of said veterans'
95 cemeteries. In either case under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this
96 subdivision, such request shall be granted.

97 (2) Such person who served in the Hmong Laotian special guerilla
98 units, or the spouse or next of kin of such person, shall provide to the
99 commissioner (A) an affidavit stating (i) when the person served, (ii)
100 where the person served, (iii) the unit in which the person served, and
101 (iv) the capacity in which the person served; (B) any available
102 corroborating witness affidavits; (C) any available official
103 documentation of service; and (D) any other documents supporting the
104 affidavit.

105 (e) The spouse of any veteran, or the spouse of any person who served
106 in the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units described in subsection (d)
107 of this section, shall, upon similar request or application made to the
108 commissioner, be buried in [said veterans' cemetery] one of said
109 veterans' cemeteries, provided only one such request or application

110 shall be granted.

111 (f) The commissioner shall designate an area in [said veterans'
112 cemetery] one of said veterans' cemeteries for veterans and any persons
113 who served in the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units described in
114 subsection (d) of this section who, for religious reasons, require burial
115 in a consecrated area.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	27-122a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2027</i>	27-122b

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Veterans Affairs to, not later than July 1, 2027, designate or acquire land as an appropriate final resting place for deceased Connecticut veterans.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]