

1 H.917

2 Introduced by House Committee on Government Operations and Military

3 Affairs

4 Date:

5 Subject: Internal security; military affairs

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to correct the
7 title of the Adjutant and Inspector General, to define “Gold Star family
8 member,” to provide a hiring preference for military spouses for employment
9 in State government, and to provide free parking for disabled veterans.

10 An act relating to military affairs

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 * * * Adjutant General * * *

13 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 10 is amended to read:

14 § 10. ELECTION OF STATE AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS

15 * * *

16 (c) At 10 o'clock and 30 minutes, forenoon, on the seventh Thursday of the
17 second year of the biennial session, the Senate and House of Representatives
18 shall meet in joint assembly and proceed therein to elect the State officers,
19 whose election by the Constitution and laws devolves in the first instance upon

1 them in joint assembly, including the legislative trustees of the Vermont State
2 Colleges Corporation and the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General. In case election
3 of all such officers shall not be made on that day, they shall meet in joint
4 assembly at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes, forenoon, on each succeeding day,
5 Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed in such election, until all such
6 officers are elected.

7 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2539 is amended to read:

8 § 2539. APPLICATION, AWARD, RENEWAL

9 * * *

10 (b) On being notified of an eligible applicant's matriculation at an
11 institution as specified in subsection 2538(a) of this title, the Adjutant ~~and~~
12 ~~Inspector~~ General or the Office of Veterans' Affairs shall provide funds from
13 the special fund established in section 2541 of this title to the Vermont Student
14 Assistance Corporation, which, upon verifying enrollment, shall disburse the
15 scholarship award to the institution.

16 * * *

17 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 2857 is amended to read:

18 § 2857. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD TUITION BENEFIT PROGRAM

19 * * *

1 (e) Termination of tuition benefit.

2 (1) The Office of the Vermont Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General may
3 terminate the tuition benefit provided an individual under the Program if:

4 * * *

5 (3) If an individual is dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons
6 from any postsecondary educational institution before receiving tuition
7 benefits under the Program, the Office of the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General
8 may make a determination regarding the individual's eligibility to receive
9 tuition benefits under the Program.

10 (f) Adoption of policies, procedures, and guidelines.

11 (1) VSAC, in consultation with the Office of the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~
12 General, shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary to
13 implement the provisions of this section, which shall include eligibility,
14 application, and acceptance requirements, proration of service requirements for
15 academic semesters or attendance periods shorter than one year, data sharing
16 guidelines, and the criteria for determining "good cause" as used in
17 subdivisions (d)(2) and (e)(1)(C) of this section.

18 * * *

19 Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 361 is amended to read:

20 § 361. MILITARY DEPARTMENT; NATIONAL GUARD

1 (a) The Military Department, created by 3 V.S.A. § 212, shall be
2 administered by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General and shall include the
3 National Guard and all military components of the State.

4 * * *

5 (c) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall adopt all necessary rules for
6 the government of the National Guard pursuant to this chapter.

7 Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 363 is amended to read:

8 § 363. OFFICERS GENERALLY

9 (a)(1) The General Assembly shall biennially elect an Adjutant ~~and~~
10 ~~Inspector~~ General for a term of two years, in accordance with 2 V.S.A. § 10(c).

11 (2) An Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General appointed to fill a vacancy
12 occurring during a term shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

13 (3) In order to be eligible for election to serve as Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~
14 General, an individual shall:

15 * * *

16 (b) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall be granted the rank of a
17 major general within the State.

18 (c)(1) The Adjutant General may appoint a Deputy with the approval of the
19 Governor. The Adjutant General may also appoint an Assistant Adjutant
20 General for Army, an Assistant Adjutant General for Air, an Assistant Adjutant

1 General for Joint Operations, a Command Sergeant Major, and a Command
2 Chief Master Sergeant, without pay, with the approval of the Governor.

3 (2) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General may remove the appointed
4 assistant adjutant generals and sergeants and shall be responsible for their acts.

5 * * *

6 (4) The Deputy, assistants, and sergeants shall perform duties as the
7 Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall direct.

8 (d)(1) In the absence or disability of the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General,
9 the Deputy shall perform the duties of that office.

10 (2) In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~
11 General, the Deputy shall assume and discharge the duties of the office until
12 the vacancy is filled.

13 * * *

14 (f) All other officers of the National Guard shall be chosen in accordance
15 with rules adopted by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General consistent with the
16 laws of this State and the United States.

17 Sec. 6. 20 V.S.A. § 365 is amended to read:

18 § 365. DISCHARGES TO OFFICERS

19 Discharges to commissioned officers may be granted by the Governor under
20 rules adopted by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General.

1 Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. § 369 is amended to read:

2 § 369. AWARDS AND MEDALS

3 Upon the approval of the Governor, the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General
4 may create and design awards and medals to recognize meritorious service or
5 outstanding achievement for members of the Vermont National Guard. The
6 Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall publish a roster of these awards and
7 medals, the criteria and process for awarding them, and a description or
8 specification of each award or medal. All awards and medals shall be
9 presented in the name of the State of Vermont and be awarded to a member or
10 retired member of the Vermont National Guard or if the member is deceased to
11 the member's spouse, child, parent, sibling, or grandchild or, if none, to a
12 person designated by the executor of the member's estate.

13 Sec. 8. 20 V.S.A. chapter 23 is amended to read:

14 CHAPTER 23. ADJUTANT ~~AND INSPECTOR~~ GENERAL

15 * * *

16 Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. § 421 is amended to read:

17 § 421. DUTIES GENERALLY

18 The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall issue, sign, and transmit the
19 orders of the Governor, and the rules that may be established, and obey the
20 orders from ~~him or her~~ the Governor as to carrying into execution the laws of
21 the United States and of this State. ~~He or she~~ The Adjutant General shall be

1 charged with the correspondence between the Governor and officers of the
2 several states and territories, the Secretary of Defense, and other persons in
3 official stations, on the subject of military affairs, and shall keep a record of
4 the correspondence.

5 Sec. 10. 20 V.S.A. § 422 is amended to read:

6 § 422. FORMS; RETURN

7 (a) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall prepare and provide at the
8 expense of the State, or procure from the federal government, all necessary
9 rosters and books of record and the blank forms for commissions, discharges,
10 returns, and other papers required by law. The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General
11 shall distribute the rosters, books of record, and forms to the officers and
12 organizations requiring them.

13 (b) ~~He or she~~ The Adjutant General shall provide an account of the
14 National Guard and its arms and equipment as required by the federal
15 government or the Governor and transmit it to the proper officials.

16 Sec. 11. 20 V.S.A. § 423 is amended to read:

17 § 423. EVIDENCE OF NEGLIGENCE OR DEFAULT IN MAKING RETURNS

18 When the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General is complainant for neglect or
19 other default in the submission of required reports and other documents, ~~he or~~
20 ~~she~~ the Adjutant General shall not be required to be present, but ~~his or her~~ the
21 Adjutant General's certificate shall be prima facie evidence that the required

1 report or document was not properly submitted; and copies of records or
2 papers in the office, duly certified and authenticated by ~~him or her~~ the
3 Adjutant General, shall be evidence in all cases as if the originals were
4 produced.

5 Sec. 12. 20 V.S.A. § 424 is amended to read:

6 § 424. PUBLICATION OF LAWS

7 The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall, at the expense of the State,
8 distribute to and inform every general, field, staff, and commanding officer of
9 the laws related to the National Guard.

10 Sec. 13. 20 V.S.A. § 425 is amended to read:

11 § 425. RECORDS

12 The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall keep all records required for the
13 administration of the National Guard.

14 Sec. 14. 20 V.S.A. § 426 is amended to read:

15 § 426. WAR RECORDS AND FILES

16 Records and files pertaining to all wars in which the State has participated
17 and rosters of Vermonters participating in wars shall be kept in the office of
18 the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General or in the State Archives as provided
19 pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 218.

1 Sec. 15. 20 V.S.A. § 427 is amended to read:

2 § 427. SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT; REPORT

3 (a) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General
4 shall report to the General Assembly on or before January 15 of each year
5 regarding complaints of sexual assault and harassment involving members of
6 the Vermont National Guard.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 16. 20 V.S.A. § 428 is amended to read:

9 § 428. PROVOST MARSHAL

10 (a) Appointment; qualifications.

11 (1) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General may:

12 (A) appoint to serve as provost marshal an officer who holds the rank
13 of major (O-4) or below and is certified as a Level III law enforcement officer
14 by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council; and

15 (B) appoint to serve as assistant provost marshal a noncommissioned
16 officer who holds the rank of first sergeant (E-8) or below and is certified as a
17 Level III law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council.

18 (2) The provost marshal and the assistant provost marshal shall serve at
19 the pleasure of the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General.

20 (b) Duties. The provost marshal shall report directly to the Adjutant ~~and~~
21 ~~Inspector~~ General and shall have the following duties:

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* * *

Sec. 17. 20 V.S.A. § 481 is amended to read:

§ 481. DUTIES GENERALLY

(a) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall keep in good repair, and attend to the preservation, safekeeping, and cleaning of the ordnance, arms, accoutrements, ammunition, munitions of war, and implements of every description, whether the property of the State or issued to the State by the federal government, and shall have the control and disposition of it for that purpose, subject to the orders of the Governor.

(b) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall make provisions for the care and preservation of the buildings and grounds used in connection with the National Guard.

Sec. 18. 20 V.S.A. § 483 is amended to read:

§ 483. INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMANDING OFFICERS

The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall give instructions to the commanding officers of the separate units of the National Guard as necessary for the discharge of the duties of the unit and the Military Department under this chapter.

1 Sec. 19. 20 V.S.A. § 486 is amended to read:

2 § 486. PROVISION FOR PAY

3 The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall provide for the pay of each officer
4 and enlisted Guard member for duty performed and authorized in accordance
5 with chapters 21–39 of this title. The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall
6 adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

7 Sec. 20. 20 V.S.A. § 541 is amended to read:

8 § 541. BOARD OF ARMORY COMMISSIONERS; MEMBERS

9 The Governor, the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General, and the senior
10 commander of the Vermont Army National Guard shall, ex officio, constitute
11 the Board of Armory Commissioners. The Governor shall be the Chair of the
12 Board and the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall be the Secretary.

13 Sec. 21. 20 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

14 § 601. WHEN AND BY WHOM NATIONAL GUARD CALLED OUT

15 (a) The Governor or, in ~~his or her~~ the Governor's absence, the Lieutenant
16 Governor, or, in the absence of both, the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General, in
17 case of riot, rebellion, or insurrection within the State, or in case of great
18 opposition to the service of legal process, whether civil or criminal, or in case
19 of invasion or imminent danger of invasion, or in case of disaster, or
20 emergency proclaimed by the Governor, may call out the National Guard, or

1 such parts of the National Guard as ~~he or she deems~~ deemed necessary, and
2 may order this force into camp for instruction and drill.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 22. 20 V.S.A. § 703 is amended to read:

5 § 703. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

6 Commissioned officers shall obey orders received from superior officers;
7 attend drills, parades, inspections, and reviews prescribed or authorized by this
8 chapter; make returns pursuant to the direction of the Governor or rules
9 adopted by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General; perform other duties incident
10 to their positions under the Constitution and laws of this State and of the
11 United States; and conform to rules adopted by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~
12 General.

13 Sec. 23. 20 V.S.A. § 704 is amended to read:

14 § 704. DUTIES OF ENLISTED MEMBERS

15 Enlisted members shall obey orders received from their officers to attend
16 drills, parades, inspections, and reviews directed or authorized by this chapter,
17 and perform the duties incident to their respective positions, subject to the
18 rules adopted by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General.

1 Sec. 24. 20 V.S.A. § 822 is amended to read:

2 § 822. DAMAGED OR DESTROYED PROPERTY

3 When military arms, stores, uniforms, equipment, or property of any kind
4 belonging to the State become damaged, partially or wholly unfit for use, or
5 partially or wholly destroyed, the officer responsible for the property may
6 request the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General to appoint a board of inspection to
7 examine and report as to its condition.

8 Sec. 25. 20 V.S.A. § 823 is amended to read:

9 § 823. STORAGE OF PROPERTY

10 Military stores belonging to the State not issued to the National Guard, and
11 military property belonging to the United States in possession of the State and
12 not issued to the National Guard, shall be stored in the State. The Adjutant
13 ~~and Inspector~~ General shall adopt the necessary rules to secure the safekeeping
14 of military property issued to the National Guard.

15 Sec. 26. 20 V.S.A. § 942a is amended to read:

16 § 942a. STRUCTURE OF COURTS-MARTIAL

17 (a) General court-martial. A general court-martial of the Vermont National
18 Guard shall be convened only by order of the Governor.

19 * * *

20 (2) The procedure by which a general court-martial shall function in
21 view of the State's lack of manpower, and shortage of places of confinement

1 and finances, shall ~~be in compliance~~ comply with reasonable rules, adjusted to
2 the peculiar characteristics of the State. The rules shall be formulated by the
3 Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General, drafted by the Staff Judge Advocate, and
4 approved by the Governor.

5 (b) Special court-martial. The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General or the
6 commanding officer of a battalion or similar unit may appoint a special court-
7 martial, but the special court-martial may in any case be appointed by superior
8 authority when the superior authority considers the appointment desirable.

9 * * *

10 (d) Appeal from convictions. Any appeal from the sentence of a court-
11 martial by the defendant shall be taken to the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General.

12 (1) The defendant shall file written notice of appeal within 30 days after
13 the court's finding of guilty.

14 (2) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General with the assistance of the Staff
15 Judge Advocate shall review all questions of law and fact.

16 (3) The final decision in all appeals from the special and summary
17 courts-martial are with the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General. An appeal from
18 the general court-martial conviction shall be reviewed by the Adjutant ~~and~~
19 ~~Inspector~~ General as provided in this subsection.

1 Sec. 29. 20 V.S.A. § 961 is amended to read:

2 § 961. COMMANDING OFFICER NONJUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

3 * * *

4 (d)(1) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General or an officer of a general or flag
5 rank in command may impose:

6 * * *

7 (2) The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General or an officer of a general or flag
8 rank in command may delegate ~~his or her~~ the powers provided under this
9 subsection to a principal assistant who is a member of the Vermont National
10 Guard.

11 * * *

12 Sec. 30. 20 V.S.A. § 963 is amended to read:

13 § 963. NONJUDICIAL DISCIPLINE PANELS

14 (a) When a service member elects to have ~~his or her~~ the service member's
15 case heard before a nonjudicial discipline panel as provided in section 962 of
16 this subchapter, the panel shall be formed as follows:

17 * * *

18 (4) If the nonjudicial discipline is being offered by a general officer, the
19 panel shall consist of three members appointed by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~
20 General with the most senior member being the chair and the most junior

1 member being the recorder, who shall record the summaries of the
2 proceedings.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 31. 20 V.S.A. § 964 is amended to read:

5 § 964. APPEALS FROM NONJUDICIAL DISCIPLINE DECISIONS

6 (a)(1) A service member disciplined under this subchapter who considers
7 the discipline unjust or disproportionate to the offense may appeal to the next
8 superior authority within 15 days after the discipline is either announced or
9 notice of the discipline is sent to the accused, as the commander under section
10 961 or the appointing authority under section 963 of this subchapter may
11 determine.

12 (2) An appeal from the decision of an appointing authority under section
13 963 of this subchapter shall be taken directly to the next higher authority,
14 unless the action is initiated by a general officer, in which case the Adjutant
15 ~~and Inspector~~ General shall have the final decision.

16 * * *

17 Sec. 32. 20 V.S.A. § 1483 is amended to read:

18 § 1483. ADJUTANT GENERAL; DUTIES AS TO VETERANS' AFFAIRS

19 In addition to the duties elsewhere set forth by law, the Adjutant ~~and~~
20 ~~Inspector~~ General shall:

1 Sec. 35. 20 V.S.A. § 1486 is amended to read:

2 § 1486. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES

3 The Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General is authorized to accept gifts, services,
4 and facilities from any source, public or private, granted in aid of the
5 administration of the duties of the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General, provided
6 that no obligation is imposed by the acceptance.

7 Sec. 36. 20 V.S.A. § 1548 is amended to read:

8 § 1548. VERMONT VETERANS' FUND

9 (a) There is created a special fund to be known as the Vermont Veterans'
10 Fund. This Fund shall be administered by the Military Department and shall
11 be paid out in grants on the recommendations of a nine-member committee
12 comprising:

13 (1) the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General or designee;

14 * * *

15 Sec. 37. 20 V.S.A. § 1581 is amended to read:

16 § 1581. VERMONT VETERANS' MEMORIAL CEMETERY ADVISORY

17 BOARD

18 (a) The Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Advisory Board is created
19 to advise the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General on all matters relating to the
20 establishment and operation of a Vermont veterans' memorial cemetery to be

1 known as the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. The Board shall consist
2 of:

3 (1) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, who shall
4 serve as Chair of the Board.

5 * * *

6 Sec. 38. 20 V.S.A. § 1601 is amended to read:

7 § 1601. AID TO VETERANS IN NEED

8 (a) The monies annually available for the purposes of this chapter, or the
9 amount of those monies that is necessary, shall be expended under the
10 supervision of the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs at the direction of the
11 Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General. The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall disburse
12 the funds, as necessary, in aiding, caring for, and educating veterans in need
13 and persons in need who are legal dependents of veterans. The Office of
14 Veterans' Affairs shall award funds to applicants approved for assistance based
15 on criteria approved by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General. Monetary
16 assistance will be given only to applicants who would not be better served by
17 other State, federal, or private assistance programs. The Adjutant ~~and~~
18 ~~Inspector~~ General shall determine conditions for eligibility and shall ensure
19 that the program is managed to the limit imposed by the available funding.
20 The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall submit an annual report to the Adjutant
21 ~~and Inspector~~ General on all fund activities at the end of each fiscal year. In

1 addition, the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General shall review all fund expenditures
2 at least once per fiscal year.

3 (b) The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall develop application and operating
4 procedures for the fund, which must be approved by the Office of the Adjutant
5 ~~and Inspector~~ General. Any deviation from the application and operating
6 procedures shall be approved by the Adjutant ~~and Inspector~~ General. The
7 application and operating procedures shall be available for review by
8 applicants, service providers, and others that may have an interest in the fund.

9 Sec. 39. 20 V.S.A. § 1605 is amended to read:

10 § 1605. VETERAN EDUCATION

11 The Office of Veterans' Affairs may use some, none, or all of the funds to
12 educate veterans in need about programs and benefits that will provide more
13 permanent solutions to their financial situation. Any use of funds for veteran
14 education or program support shall be approved in advance by the Adjutant
15 ~~and Inspector~~ General.

16 ~~*** Gold Star Families ***~~

17 Sec. 40. 1 V.S.A. § 152 is added to read:

18 § 152. GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER

19 “Gold Star family member” means any spouse, parent, child, sibling,
20 grandparent, or grandchild of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who died
21 while serving or from a service-connected illness or injury.

Sec. 40. [Deleted.]

~~Sec. 41. 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:~~

~~§ 304. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES; NUMBER PLATES; VANITY
AND OTHER SPECIAL PLATES~~

~~* * *~~

~~(k)(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application, issue special gold star and next-of-kin plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan, as follows:~~

~~(A) Gold star plates shall be issued to the widow or widower, parents, and next of kin as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126(d) of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who lost their lives under the circumstances described in 10 U.S.C. § 1126(a).~~

~~(B) Next-of-kin plates shall be issued to the widow or widower, parents, and next of kin as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126(d) of members of the Armed Forces not eligible for gold star plates under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1) who lost their lives while serving on active duty or on active duty for training, or while assigned in a Reserve or National Guard unit in drill status, or as a result of injury or illness incurred during such service or assignment a gold star family member as defined in 1 V.S.A. § 152.~~

1 ~~(2) The type and style of the gold star and next of kin plates shall be~~
2 determined by the Commissioner and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs,
3 except that a gold star shall appear on one side of gold star plates and a distinct
4 emblem shall be approved for next of kin plates. An applicant shall apply on a
5 form prescribed by the Commissioner, and the applicant's eligibility will be
6 certified by the Office of Veterans' Affairs. A plate shall be reissued only to
7 the original holder of the plate. The Commissioner may adopt rules to
8 implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for new or renewed
9 registrations, applications for the issuance of gold star or next of kin plates
10 shall be processed in the order received by the Department subject to normal
11 workflow considerations.

12 ~~_____~~
Sec. 41. [Deleted.]

13 * * * Hiring Preference for Military Spouses * * *

14 Sec. 42. 3 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

15 § 310. CLASSIFICATION PLAN; RULES

16 * * *

17 (f) The Classification and Compensation Plan and the rules for personnel
18 administration shall be based on merit system principles and shall provide for
19 compliance with the laws relating to preference granted to qualified persons
20 who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and received honorable discharge.

1 (g)(1) After the requirements of an applicable collective bargaining
2 agreement have been satisfied with regard to hiring issues and after
3 compliance with subsection 327(a) of this title, and consistent with applicable
4 State or federal standards for affirmative action, the State shall make a diligent
5 effort to recruit, interview, and hire:

6 (A) those applicants who meet the definition of a veteran as defined
7 by 38 U.S.C. § 101 and who received an honorable discharge; ~~and~~

8 (B) the spouses of veterans, as defined in subdivision (A) of this
9 subdivision (1), who currently receive disability compensation or improved
10 pension from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and are unable to work
11 due to disability and the surviving spouses of veterans in cases where the
12 surviving spouse currently receives dependency indemnity compensation from
13 the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and

14 (C) the spouses of personnel currently serving in the U.S. Armed
15 Forces.

16 (2) Veterans and spouses of personnel currently serving in the U.S.
17 Armed Forces who apply for and meet the requirements for any open
18 competitive recruitment that is conducted using a point-based examination and
19 who receive a passing score shall have five points added to their competitive
20 examination rating, and service-connected disabled veterans, veterans'
21 unmarried widows or widowers, and spouses of totally service-connected

1 disabled veterans who meet the requirements for any open competitive
2 examination and who receive a passing score shall have ~~ten~~ 10 points added to
3 their competitive examination rating, subject to the provisions contained in 20
4 V.S.A. § 1543.

5 (h) Those individuals qualifying under subdivision (g)(1)(A) of this section
6 shall be entitled to apply and compete for vacant positions for which
7 recruitment is being conducted only on a statewide promotional basis.

8 * * *

9 * * * Parking for Disabled Veterans * * *

10 Sec. 43. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

11 § 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS

12 For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and
13 convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following
14 powers:

15 * * *

16 (26) To regulate parking lots and parking meters on public property or
17 public highways of the municipality, including the power to set parking fees
18 and use parking revenues for any municipal purpose. Projects relating to
19 parking lots and parking meters under this subdivision shall constitute an
20 improvement under chapter 53 of this title, and a municipality shall have the
21 right of eminent domain to condemn land necessary for such projects subject

1 to the restrictions set forth in section 2805 of this title and 18 V.S.A. § 5318.

2 A vehicle with disabled veteran plates issued by any state shall be permitted to
3 park at a parking meter without fee.

4 * * *

5 * * * Effective Date * * *

6 Sec. 44. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.