

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4671**

---

---

House bill No. 4661, as changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, and as amended and passed to be engrossed by the House. May 22, 2024.

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act honoring, empowering, and recognizing our servicemembers and veterans.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith honor, empower and recognize servicemembers and veterans in the commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 6A of chapter 2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 official edition, is hereby amended by adding the following 3 paragraphs:-

3           (h) In the event of the death of any military service member performing military duty  
4 under official orders, who is killed while in an active duty status, including, but not limited to, a  
5 member of the United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Coast Guard, United  
6 States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States National Guard, United States Army  
7 Reserves and United States Space Force, and residing in the commonwealth, from the day of  
8 death until sunset of the day of interment, the flag of the commonwealth shall be flown at half-  
9 staff in accordance with such orders or instructions as may be issued by, or at the direction of,  
10 the governor.

11 (i) In the event the remains of a POW or a MIA are repatriated within the commonwealth,  
12 from the day of arrival within the commonwealth through the day of interment the flag of the  
13 commonwealth shall be flown at half-staff.

14 (j) Annually, on national POW/MIA recognition day, observed on the third Friday of  
15 September, from sunrise to sunset the flag of the commonwealth shall be flown at half-staff.

16 SECTION 1A. Section 34 of said chapter 2, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
17 striking out, in line 2, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
18 executive office. SECTION 2. Chapter 6 is hereby amended by inserting after section  
19 15ZZZZZZ the following section:-

20 Section 15AAAAAAA. (a) The governor shall annually issue a proclamation on  
21 Memorial Day in recognition of the sacrifices of Gold Star families in the commonwealth and  
22 the following landmarks and bridges shall be illuminated in gold on Memorial Day to  
23 commemorate and recognize the lives of those lost in military service, including, but not limited  
24 to:

25 (1) the Gold Star Families Bridge in the city of Lynn;

26 (2) the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge in the cities of Boston and  
27 Cambridge;

28 (3) the Longfellow Bridge in the cities of Boston and Cambridge;

29 (4) the Fore River Bridge in the city of Quincy and the town of Weymouth; and

30 (5) the Kenneth F. Burns Memorial Bridge in the city of Worcester and the town of  
31 Shrewsbury.

32 (b) The governor, the department of transportation, the executive office of veterans’  
33 services and the Military Friends Foundation shall establish policies and procedures necessary to  
34 implement this section.

35 SECTION 3. Subsection (d) of section 16DD of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as  
36 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 29, the second  
37 time it appears, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
38 executive office.

39 SECTION 4. Section 105 of said chapter 6A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
40 striking out, in line 1, the words “a department” and inserting in place thereof the following  
41 words:- an executive office.

42 SECTION 5. Section 4G of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
43 amended by striking out, in lines 7 to 8, the words “the department of veterans’ services,”.

44 SECTION 6. Section 61 of said chapter 7, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
45 out, in lines 124 and 125, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the following  
46 words:- executive office.

47 SECTION 7. Section 17 of chapter 11 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
48 amended by striking out, in line 21, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the  
49 following words:- executive office.

50 SECTION 7A. Chapter 23K of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
51 section 20 the following section:-

52           Section 20A. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
53 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

54           “Limited slot machine establishment”, the premises owned or leased by a veterans’  
55 organization for use by its members in good standing.

56           “Limited slot machine license”, a gaming license issued by the commission that permits a  
57 veterans’ organization to operate a gaming establishment with no table games and not more than  
58 5 slot machines at a limited slot machine establishment.

59           “Limited slot machine licensee”, a veterans’ organization that holds a limited slot  
60 machine license for its limited slot machine establishment.

61           “Local licensing authority”, the local licensing authority in the city or town in which the  
62 limited slot machine establishment is located.

63           “Veterans’ organization”, any veterans’ organization that is: (i) incorporated by the  
64 Congress of the United States; and (ii) included in section 4E of chapter 9.

65           (b)(1) The commission may issue a limited slot machine license to veterans’  
66 organizations in the commonwealth.

67           (2) A limited slot machine license shall only be issued to a veterans’ organization that: (i)  
68 has been organized and actively functioning as a veterans’ organization for not less than 5 years  
69 prior to being issued a license; (ii) has received the approval of the local licensing authority; and  
70 (iii) has been deemed suitable and qualified pursuant to regulations adopted by the commission  
71 pursuant to subsection (1).

72 (3) No limited slot machine license issued to a veterans' organization pursuant to this  
73 section shall be transferred or assigned.

74 (c) A limited slot machine license issued by the commission pursuant to this section may  
75 be suspended or revoked at the discretion of the commission or upon written request to the  
76 commission by the local licensing authority. The suspension or revocation of a license issued  
77 pursuant to this section may be appealed by the limited slot machine licensee to the full  
78 commission, and the commission shall hear the appeal on the record. The decision rendered by  
79 the commission after the hearing shall be final and the licensee shall not be entitled to further  
80 review; provided, however, that in the case of a license revocation, the licensee shall be entitled  
81 to reapply for a license not less than 5 years from the date in which the final decision of the  
82 commission was issued.

83 (d) A limited slot machine licensee shall limit the promotion, operation of and access to  
84 slot machines to members in good standing of the veterans' organization; provided, that no  
85 member of the veterans' organization holding a limited slot machine license shall receive  
86 remuneration in any form for time or effort devoted to the promotion or operation of the slot  
87 machines. No member of the general public shall be permitted access to any slot machine in a  
88 limited slot machine establishment.

89 (e) The profits of any slot machines shall be the property of the limited slot machine  
90 licensee, and shall be used for charitable, fraternal or civic purposes, including, but not limited  
91 to, veterans' benefits.

92 (f) A limited slot machine license issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for a  
93 period of 5 years. The commission shall establish procedures for application and renewal and

94 may establish a fee for application or renewal not to exceed \$500. Application and renewal fees  
95 shall be deposited into the Gaming Revenue Fund established in section 59.

96 (g) Each licensee shall keep accurate records and books showing: (i) the total amount of  
97 all monies deposited by members in good standing of the veterans' organization who played the  
98 slot machines located in the limited slot machine establishment; (ii) the expenses incurred; and  
99 (iii) the name and address of each person receiving greater than \$100 in winnings in a 24-hour  
100 period. A separate checking account shall be kept of receipts and expenditures. Money for  
101 expenses shall be withdrawn only by checks having preprinted consecutive numbers and made  
102 payable to a specific person or corporation. No check shall be made payable to cash. All monies  
103 expended for said charitable, fraternal or civic purposes shall be duly and accurately recorded as  
104 to specific amounts expended and the purposes for which said amounts were expended. Proceeds  
105 from the operation of the slot machines shall be kept in a separate bank account and the licensee  
106 shall file an annual report on or before December 31 of each year of the charitable, fraternal and  
107 civic disbursements made during the preceding year with the commission and the local licensing  
108 authority in such form as the commission may prescribe. Such annual report shall be a public  
109 record. The commission and the local licensing authority, or their duly authorized agents or  
110 representatives, shall at all times have access to the limited slot machine establishment, as well  
111 as the records and books of any licensee for the purpose of examining and checking the same.

112 (h) Each licensee shall file a return with the commission, on a form prepared by the  
113 commission, and shall pay therewith a tax of 5 per cent of the gross profits derived from the slot  
114 machines located in the limited slot machine establishment, which shall be deposited into the  
115 Gaming Revenue Fund established in section 59.

116 (i) No person under 21 years of age shall be permitted in the portion of any building or  
117 premises of the licensee during such time as a slot machine is being played.

118 (j) A limited slot machine establishment shall keep conspicuously posted on their  
119 premises a notice containing the following statement: "If you or someone you know has a  
120 gambling problem and wants help, call the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health on the  
121 Safer Gaming Education Line at 1-800-426-1234 or the Massachusetts Department of Public  
122 Health helpline at 1-800-327-5050."

123 (k) Limited slot machine licensees shall only acquire slot machines from a person  
124 licensed as a gaming vendor under section 31.

125 (l) The commission shall, consistent with the public objectives of this chapter established  
126 in section 1, promulgate regulations for the implementation, administration and enforcement of  
127 this section including, without limitation, regulations that prescribe: (i) the method and form of  
128 application which an applicant for licensure shall follow and complete before consideration by  
129 the commission; (ii) the information to be furnished by an applicant for a limited slot machine  
130 license or for the renewal of a limited slot machine license; (iii) suitability standards for  
131 applicants for licensure pursuant to this section; (iv) the criteria for evaluation of the application  
132 for a limited slot machine license and qualifications for licensure pursuant to this section; (v) the  
133 information to be furnished by a veterans' organization relating to the members of the veterans'  
134 organization tasked with managing the slot machines; (vi) criteria for eligibility for licensure  
135 under this section; (vii) conditions on the operation and control of a limited slot machine  
136 establishment; and (viii) grounds and procedures for the revocation or suspension of a limited  
137 slot machine license.

138 SECTION 8. Section 49 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
139 amended by striking out, in lines 14 and 15, the words “home in the city of Chelsea” and  
140 inserting in place thereof the following word:- homes.

141 SECTION 9. Paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 of chapter 32, as so appearing,  
142 is hereby amended by striking out the fourth subparagraph and inserting in place thereof the  
143 following subparagraph:-

144 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter or any other general or special law, rule or  
145 regulation to the contrary, a member in service of a retirement system as defined in section 1  
146 shall be provided written notice by the retirement board upon entry into service that if they  
147 qualify as a veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States they shall be entitled to  
148 credit for active service in the armed services of the United States; provided, however, that such  
149 active service shall not be credited until such member, prior to or within 1 year of vesting  
150 pursuant to this chapter, has paid into the annuity savings fund of such system, in 1 sum or in  
151 installments, upon such terms and conditions as the board may prescribe, makeup payments, for  
152 each year of creditable service sought, of an amount equal to the 10 per cent of the regular  
153 annual compensation of the member when said member entered the retirement system; provided  
154 further, that such creditable service shall not be construed to include service for more than 4  
155 years; and provided further, that such creditable service shall not be allowed for any period of  
156 active service for which said veteran has received credit pursuant to this paragraph . This  
157 paragraph shall apply to national guard and active reserve personnel, both former and present.  
158 Creditable service time, both enlisted and commissioned, may be applied toward retirement on a  
159 ratio of 5 years national guard service or 5 years active reserve service substitutable for each year  
160 of active service. National guard and active reserve personnel shall not be precluded from

161 making said purchase should they qualify as a veteran after vesting or if they reach the maximum  
162 of 4 years of eligible service purchase subsequent to vesting and qualifying as a veteran;  
163 provided, that they enter into a purchase agreement within 5 years of the last occurring event.

164 SECTION 10. Section 67A of chapter 33 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
165 amended by adding the following paragraph:-

166 Next of kin of a fallen service member may apply to the adjutant general for a medal of  
167 liberty, in a form prescribed by the adjutant general. There shall be within the application for the  
168 medal of liberty a notification that informs applicants of their eligibility to receive the medal of  
169 liberty license plate, pursuant to section 2 of chapter 90, free of charge upon approval of the  
170 application. The notification shall read as follows: IF YOU RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF  
171 LIBERTY, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF LIBERTY LICENSE  
172 PLATE FREE OF CHARGE. APPLY AT [https://www.mass.gov/doc/application-for-medal-of-](https://www.mass.gov/doc/application-for-medal-of-liberty-plates)  
173 liberty-plates. SECTION 11. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
174 hereby amended by inserting after clause Twenty-second H the following 2 clauses:-

175 Twenty-second I. In a city or town that accepts this clause and is certified by the  
176 commissioner to be assessing all property at full and fair cash valuation, an abatement granted  
177 pursuant clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C,  
178 Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F shall be increased annually by an amount equal to the  
179 increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index for such year. The  
180 department of revenue shall annually inform each city or town that accepts this clause of the  
181 amount of this increase.

182 Twenty-second J. In a city or town that accepts this clause and is certified by the  
183 commissioner to be assessing all property at full and fair cash valuation, a taxpayer who  
184 otherwise qualifies for an exemption pursuant clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second A,  
185 Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F shall be granted an  
186 additional exemption that shall be uniform for all herein named exemptions and the amount of  
187 which shall not exceed 100 per cent of the exemption for which the taxpayer qualifies, as may be  
188 determined by the legislative body of the city or town, subject to its charter, not later than the  
189 beginning of the fiscal year to which the additional exemption shall commence. Once accepted,  
190 the amount of the exemption shall continue until amended by the legislative body of the city or  
191 town. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the exemption shall be in  
192 addition to any exemption allowable pursuant to this section; provided, however, that in no  
193 instance shall the taxable valuation of the property, after all applicable exemptions, be reduced  
194 below 10 per cent of its full and fair cash valuation, except through the applicability of clause  
195 Eighteenth. Acceptance of this clause by a city or town shall not increase the amount that the city  
196 or town otherwise would have been reimbursed by the commonwealth pursuant to the clause.  
197 The additional exemption contained within this clause shall not be implemented in any year in  
198 which the city or town has also accepted the section 5C1/2 of chapter 59.

199 SECTION 11A. Section 1 of chapter 60A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
200 amended by striking out, in lines 101 to 103, inclusive, the words “medical advisory board  
201 established under section 8C of chapter 90 to be permanently disabled”, and inserting in place  
202 thereof the following words:- United States Department of Veterans Affairs to: (i) have a  
203 combined service-connected disability rating of 100 per cent; or (ii) be individually  
204 unemployable due to their service-connected disability.

205 SECTION 12. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
206 out, in line 1113, as so appearing, the figure “2,000” and inserting in place thereof the following  
207 figure:- 2,500.

208 SECTION 13. Said section 6 of said chapter 62, as so appearing, is hereby further  
209 amended by striking out, in line 1130, as so appearing, the figure “2,000” and inserting in place  
210 thereof the following figure:- 2,500.

211 SECTION 14. Section 38GG of chapter 63 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
212 hereby amended by striking out, in line 8, the figure “2,000” and inserting in place thereof the  
213 following figure:- 2,500.

214 SECTION 15. Said section 38GG of said chapter 63, as so appearing, is hereby further  
215 amended by striking out, in line 24, the figure “2,000” and inserting in place thereof the  
216 following figure:- 2,500.

217 SECTION 16. Section 6 of chapter 64H of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
218 amended by striking out subsection (u) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

219 (u) Sale of a motor vehicle purchased by and for the use of a person who has suffered loss  
220 of, or permanent loss of use of, both legs or both arms or 1 leg and 1 arm or by and for the use of  
221 a veteran who has been determined to be permanently disabled by the medical advisory board  
222 established under section 8C of chapter 90 and has been issued a disabled veteran number plate  
223 or a purple heart recipient plate under section 2 of said chapter 90; provided, that this exemption  
224 shall apply to 1 motor vehicle only owned and registered for the personal, noncommercial use of  
225 such person. A person issued a purple heart recipient plate shall not have to forfeit their purple

226 heart recipient plate for a disabled veteran number plate to receive the exemption from the tax in  
227 this paragraph.

228 SECTION 17. Section 4 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
229 amended by striking out, in lines 32 and 39, each time it appears, the word “department” and  
230 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- executive office.

231 SECTION 18. Section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
232 out, in lines 172 to 186, inclusive, as so appearing, the words “pleasure passenger vehicles  
233 owned by veterans who, according to the records of the United States Veterans’ Administration,  
234 has been determined to have a service-connected disability rating of 60 per cent or greater and by  
235 reason of service in the armed forces of the United States have suffered loss or permanent loss of  
236 use of one or both feet; or loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands; or permanent  
237 impairment of vision of both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 20/200 or less  
238 in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a  
239 field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter  
240 of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees in the better eye, or  
241 any other disability or handicap of such veterans which may be determined by the medical  
242 advisory board as established by section eight C, and”.

243 SECTION 19. The seventh paragraph of said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so  
244 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the third and fourth sentences.

245 SECTION 20. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking  
246 out, in lines 246 to 258, inclusive, as so appearing, the words “and the words “Disabled Veteran”  
247 for a pleasure passenger vehicle or a pick-up truck owned or leased by and used by a veteran

248 who, according to the records of the United States Veterans' Administration, by reason of service  
249 in the armed forces of the United States has suffered loss or permanent loss of use of one or both  
250 feet; or loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands; or permanent impairment of vision of  
251 both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with  
252 corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which  
253 the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field  
254 subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye, or any other disability  
255 or handicap”.

256 SECTION 21. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking out  
257 the twelfth paragraph, as so appearing.

258 SECTION 22. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking out  
259 the fifteenth through seventeenth paragraphs, inclusive, as so appearing.

260 SECTION 23. Said section 2 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking out  
261 the nineteenth through twenty-second paragraphs, inclusive, as so appearing.

262 SECTION 23A. The twenty-third paragraph of said section 2 of chapter 90, as so  
263 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- The registrar, in consultation  
264 with the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall notify all past recipients of  
265 the medal of liberty, established pursuant to said section 67A of said chapter 33, of their  
266 eligibility for the medal of liberty license plate through a letter, which shall include the  
267 application for the medal of liberty license plate.

268 SECTION 24. Said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 21 the  
269 following section:-

270 Section 2J. (a) The registrar shall design and maintain a series of distinct and individual  
271 license plates recognizing those who have served in the military and for those who deserve  
272 special recognition relating to or deriving from military service.

273 (b) Any veteran meeting the definition of a veteran in clause forty-third of section 7 of  
274 chapter 4 or section 1 of chapter 115, or who is eligible for the annuity provided under section  
275 6C of chapter 115, shall be eligible and entitled to a veteran plate which shall carry the  
276 denotation "VETERAN", upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of such status as determined  
277 by the registrar.

278 (c) The series of distinct and individual license plates recognizing those who have served  
279 in the military and for those who deserve special recognition relating to or deriving from military  
280 service shall include the license plates described in the following paragraphs:

281 (1) Veterans ranked as at least 60 per cent disabled by the United States Department of  
282 Veterans Affairs, including those who have suffered the loss of a limb, permanent visual acuity  
283 loss of 20/200 in an eye, or are otherwise determined to be disabled or handicapped by the  
284 medical advisory board established in section 8C, shall be entitled to a distinctive disabled  
285 veteran plate.

286 (2) Veterans who have been captured and incarcerated by foreign forces in conflict or  
287 held as prisoners of war shall be entitled to a distinctive plate recognizing that status.

288 (3) Veterans who are members of the Legion of Valor of the United States of America,  
289 Incorporated shall be entitled to a distinctive plate recognizing that status.

290 (4) Veterans awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor shall be entitled to a distinctive  
291 plate recognizing that status, including, subject to availability, the use of the initials of the award  
292 recipient followed by CMH signifying their award.

293 (5) Veterans awarded the Order of the Purple Heart shall be entitled to a distinctive plate  
294 indicating that status which shall include the words "COMBAT WOUNDED."

295 (6) Survivors of the attack upon Pearl Harbor shall be entitled to a distinctive plate  
296 reflecting that status and bearing the word "VETERAN" thereupon.

297 (7) Residents of the commonwealth serving in any branch of the national guard shall be  
298 entitled to a distinctive plate reflecting that status.

299 (8) Residents of the commonwealth awarded the Medal of Liberty under section 67A of  
300 chapter 33 shall be entitled to a distinctive plate reflecting that status.

301 (9) The next of kin of a member of the armed forces, in possession of a Gold Star Lapel  
302 Button under the regulations of the United States Secretary of Defense, shall be entitled to a  
303 Gold Star Family distinctive plate. Said button shall not be an eligibility requirement for those  
304 who have presented other satisfactory evidence of their status, as determined by the registrar.

305 (d) A veteran who has served in the armed forces and is entitled to a veteran license plate  
306 shall also be entitled to the issuance of a decal or emblem denoting their branch of service.  
307 Residents of the commonwealth identifying as a woman veteran who served in any branch shall  
308 be entitled to a distinctive decal which the registry of motor vehicles shall design and issue.

309 (e) The following individuals shall be entitled to a distinctive plate, emblem or decal  
310 denoting their award status:

311 (1) Owners of private vehicles awarded 1 of the following decorations for valor or  
312 gallantry: the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Distinguish  
313 Service Cross, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross, or any other similar award designated by the  
314 secretary of veterans' services.

315 (2) A resident of the commonwealth qualifying as a Gold Star parent, child, sibling,  
316 grandchild or spouse. A distinctive plate, under this paragraph, may not be used in conjunction  
317 with a motor vehicle that has promotional or advertising material thereupon.

318 (f) Veterans entitled to a distinctive plate shall be entitled to have a distinctive emblem or  
319 decal reflecting service in Operation Enduring Freedom or the receipt of the Iraqi Freedom  
320 Campaign Ribbon, an Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon, a Persian Gulf Campaign Ribbon, the  
321 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Inherent Resolve  
322 Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service  
323 Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, or the Prisoner of War Medal.

324 (g) Under any special recognition or status recognized in this section, a widowed person  
325 shall not be compelled to surrender their distinctive plate, emblem or decal unless they remarry,  
326 cancel or fail to renew registration. If the deceased person was entitled to recognition under any  
327 portion of this section but did not apply for special status under this section, a widowed person  
328 may nonetheless apply in the stead of their deceased spouse.

329 (h) Any special status under this section shall entitle the bearer to only 1 special plate,  
330 emblem or decal; provided, however, that such person may, at their option, have the distinctive  
331 plate, emblem or decal issued in a form suitable for use on a motorcycle rather than a passenger  
332 car.

333 (i) Any plate to which an individual is entitled under this section shall be issued without  
334 fee other than the established registration fee for private passenger motor vehicles and  
335 motorcycles. The registrar may provide individuals the option of paying an additional fee. Any  
336 funds related to the additional fee generated under this section shall be distributed to the state-  
337 operated veterans' homes on an equal basis, to their special account, up to \$500,000 for each  
338 home. Any excess fee over \$500,000 for each state-operated veterans' home shall be placed in  
339 the special trust fund subject to the control of the secretary of veterans' services.

340 SECTION 24A. Section 33 of said chapter 90, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
341 is hereby amended by striking out paragraph (29) and inserting in place thereof the following  
342 paragraph:-

343 (29) No fee shall be exacted for the registration of any vehicle owned by a veteran who  
344 has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to: (i) have a  
345 combined service-connected disability rating of 100 per cent; or (ii) be individually  
346 unemployable due to their service-connected disability, and no fee shall be exacted for the  
347 issuance to such disabled veteran of a license to operate such vehicle.

348 SECTION 25. Section 244 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, inserted by section 14 of  
349 chapter 154 of the acts of 2022, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 2, as appearing in the  
350 2022 Official Edition, the word "commissioner" and inserting in place thereof the following  
351 word:- secretary.

352 SECTION 26. Said section 244 of said chapter 111, inserted by said section 14 of said  
353 chapter 154, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 28, as appearing in the 2022

354 Official Edition, the word “commissioner”, the second time it appears, and inserting in place  
355 thereof the following word:- secretary.

356 SECTION 27. Said section 244 of said chapter 111, inserted by said section 14 of said  
357 chapter 154, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 35 and 38, as appearing in the  
358 2022 Official Edition, each time it appears, the word “commissioner” and inserting in place  
359 thereof the following word:- secretary.

360 SECTION 28. Said section 244 of said chapter 111, inserted by said section 14 of said  
361 chapter 154, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 43, as appearing in the 2022  
362 Official Edition, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
363 executive office.

364 SECTION 29. Section 244 of said chapter 111, inserted by section 34 of chapter 177 of  
365 the acts of 2023, is hereby repealed.

366 SECTION 30. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
367 following section:-

368 Section 245. The department shall administer an initiative to increase public awareness of  
369 and education on the availability of the extreme risk protection order process established  
370 pursuant to sections 131R to 131Y, inclusive, of chapter 140, to remove a firearm from the  
371 control, ownership or possession of an individual who poses a risk of causing bodily injury to  
372 themselves or others. The initiative shall focus on the heightened risk of suicide associated with the  
373 possession of a firearm and shall include information on: (i) eligibility to petition for an extreme  
374 risk protection order; (ii) the procedure to petition for an extreme risk protection order; (iii)

375 options to voluntarily surrender a firearm to a law enforcement agency; and (iv) the availability  
376 of existing legal resources and support services for a potential petitioner.

377 SECTION 30A. Subsection (b) of section 3 of chapter 111C of the General Laws, as  
378 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out clause (26) and  
379 inserting in place thereof the following 2 clauses:-

380 (26) establish standards for determining the extent to which the education and training  
381 requirements of veterans and military medics of the United States armed forces are substantially  
382 equivalent to the course and training requirements of emergency medical technicians in the  
383 commonwealth and promulgate regulations for the waiver of any equivalent course or training  
384 requirement for certification completed by veterans and military medics of the United States  
385 armed forces seeking certification as an emergency medical technician in the commonwealth;  
386 and

387 (27) take any other action consistent with its role as state lead agency for EMS.

388 SECTION 30B. Said chapter 111C is hereby further amended by inserting after section  
389 9A the following section:-

390 Section 9B. (a) The department may grant a waiver to veterans or military medics of the  
391 United States armed forces applying to be an emergency medical technician consistent with  
392 standards established pursuant to clause (26) of subsection (b) of section 3 if the completed  
393 courses or training required by the United States armed forces are substantially equivalent to  
394 training consistent with this chapter for emergency medical technicians.

395 (b) The applicant for a waiver pursuant to subsection (a) shall submit sufficient proof of  
396 completion of the substantially equivalent courses and training to the department.

397 (c) No veteran or military medic applying to be an emergency medical technician who  
398 has completed substantially equivalent emergency training with the United States armed forces,  
399 as determined by the department, shall be required to complete the same training for EMT  
400 certification or licensing in the commonwealth.

401 (d) The department shall issue a verification of emergency medical technician education  
402 and training equivalency if the department determines the completed courses or training required  
403 by the United States armed forces are substantially equivalent to training consistent with this  
404 chapter for emergency medical technicians.

405 SECTION 31. Section 1 of chapter 115 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
406 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of “Dependent” and inserting  
407 in place thereof the following definition:-

408 “Dependent”, the spouse, widowed person, child or parent of a veteran, including any  
409 person who stood in the relationship of a parent to such veteran for the 5 years next preceding the  
410 commencement of the veteran’s wartime service; provided, that no child of a veteran who is  
411 older than 18 years of age shall be deemed a dependent, unless the child meets the criteria  
412 established for emancipation pursuant to section 28 of chapter 208 or section 9 of chapter 209C  
413 or unless the child is mentally or physically unable to support themselves after attaining the age  
414 of 23.

415 SECTION 32. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
416 amended by striking out, in line 25, the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place  
417 thereof, in each instance, the following word:- their.

418 SECTION 33. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
419 amended by striking out, in line 26, the words “he applies” and inserting in place thereof the  
420 following words:- they apply.

421 SECTION 34. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
422 amended by striking out the definition of “veteran” and inserting in place thereof the following  
423 definition:-

424 “Veteran”, any person who (a) is a veteran as defined in clause Forty-third of section 7 of  
425 chapter 4; or (b) served on active duty in the armed forces for at least 90 days and whose last  
426 discharge or release was under conditions other than dishonorable; or (c) served on active duty,  
427 to include active duty solely for training purposes, in the armed forces, and was awarded a  
428 service-connected disability or who died in such service under conditions other than  
429 dishonorable; or (d) served in the national guard or as a reservist in any branch of the armed  
430 forces, including active duty solely for training purposes, and was awarded a service-connected  
431 disability or who died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable; or (e) is  
432 determined to be a veteran according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; provided, that  
433 in any case, the service of such person qualified under clause (a) through clause (e) was entered  
434 into or served in Massachusetts, or such person has resided in the commonwealth for 1 day,  
435 except for the purpose of determining the residential eligibility of a deceased veteran’s  
436 dependents.

437 SECTION 35. Said section 1 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
438 amended by striking out, in lines 54 to 55, the words “as defined in clause Forty-third of section  
439 seven of chapter four,”.

440 SECTION 36. Section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
441 striking out, in lines 1 to 2, the words “as defined in clause Forty-third of section seven of  
442 chapter four”.

443 SECTION 37. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
444 amended by striking out, in lines 7, 20, 39, 45 and 98, each time it appears, the word “his” and  
445 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- the.

446 SECTION 38. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
447 amended by striking out, in lines 8, 12, 20, 66, 82, 103, 123, 131, 139 and 150, each time it  
448 appears, the word “He” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:-  
449 The secretary.

450 SECTION 39. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
451 amended by striking out, in lines 12, 63, 71, 89, 98, 113, 118 and 119, each time it appears, the  
452 word “him” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the secretary.

453 SECTION 40. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
454 amended by striking out, in lines 13, 14, 61, 76, 118, 125, 129, 134 and 142, each time it  
455 appears, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the  
456 secretary.

457 SECTION 41. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
458 amended by striking out the sixth paragraph.

459 SECTION 42. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
460 amended by striking out, in line 82, the words “him or by his” and inserting in place thereof the  
461 following words:- the secretary or the secretary’s.

462 SECTION 43. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
463 amended by striking out, in lines 153 and 156, each time it appears, the word “his” and inserting  
464 in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- a.

465 SECTION 44. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
466 amended by striking out, in line 155, the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the  
467 following word:- chairperson.

468 SECTION 45. Said section 2 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
469 amended by adding the following 3 paragraphs:-

470 The secretary shall provide, subject to appropriation, a medical assistance benefit in  
471 addition to the other benefits provided in this chapter. A recipient of the medical assistance  
472 benefit shall, where applicable, make use of private, state or federally funded resources before  
473 seeking aid under this paragraph. The medical assistance benefit shall include, but shall not be  
474 limited to, covering the cost of those necessary medical visits, procedures, prescriptions, costs  
475 and other such treatment as the secretary shall determine through regulations. The secretary  
476 shall, by regulation or otherwise, make provision to keep the program efficient and economical.

477           The secretary shall provide, subject to the appropriation, a behavioral health assistance  
478 benefit in addition to the other benefits provided in this chapter. A recipient of the behavioral  
479 health assistance benefit shall, where applicable, make use of private, state or federally funded  
480 resources before seeking aid under this paragraph. The behavioral health assistance benefit shall  
481 include, but shall not be limited to, covering the cost of those necessary outpatient behavioral  
482 health assessments, evaluations, visits, prescriptions, costs and other such treatment as the  
483 secretary shall determine through regulations. The secretary shall, by regulation or otherwise,  
484 make provision to keep the program efficient and economical.

485           The secretary shall provide, subject to appropriation, a dental assistance benefit in  
486 addition to the other benefits provided in this chapter. A recipient of the dental assistance benefit  
487 shall, where applicable, make use of private, state or federally funded resources before seeking  
488 aid under this paragraph. The dental assistance benefit shall include, but shall not be limited to,  
489 covering the cost of those necessary medical visits, procedures, prescriptions, costs and other  
490 such treatment as the secretary shall determine through regulations. The secretary shall, by  
491 regulation or otherwise, make provision to keep the program efficient and economical.

492           SECTION 46. Section 2B of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
493 striking out, in lines 7 and 8, each time it appears, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof,  
494 in each instance, the following word:- a.

495           SECTION 46A. Said chapter 115 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 2D  
496 the following section:-

497           Section 2E. (a) The secretary, in consultation with the secretary of labor and workforce  
498 development, shall create and distribute a veterans’ benefits and services notice.

499 (b) The veterans' benefits and services notice shall include information regarding the  
500 services and resources available to veterans, including, but not limited to: (i) contact and website  
501 information for the executive office of veterans' services and the United States Department of  
502 Veterans Affairs; (ii) substance abuse and mental health treatment resources; (iii) educational,  
503 workforce and training resources; (iv) tax benefits resources; (v) information about obtaining a  
504 veteran indicator on a state driver's license or identification card; (vi) information about  
505 eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits under state and federal law; (vii) legal services  
506 resources; and (viii) contact information for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
507 Veterans Crisis Line.

508 (c) Every employer in the commonwealth with more than 50 full-time employees shall  
509 post the notice created pursuant to subsection (a) in a conspicuous location in the workplace  
510 accessible to employees and shall distribute the notice to each employee at the start of  
511 employment and on an annual basis.

512 SECTION 47. Section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
513 striking out, in line 17, the word "his".

514 SECTION 48. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
515 amended by striking out, in line 18, the words "civil war".

516 SECTION 49. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
517 amended by striking out, in lines 18 to 19, the words "his wife or widow" and inserting in place  
518 thereof the following words:- a veteran's spouse or widowed person.

519 SECTION 50. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
520 amended by striking out, in line 20, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
521 words:- the secretary.

522 SECTION 51. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
523 amended by striking out, in line 20, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
524 words:- the agent’s.

525 SECTION 52. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
526 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following  
527 words:- the veteran.

528 SECTION 53. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
529 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
530 words:- the veteran’s.

531 SECTION 54. Said section 3 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
532 amended by striking out, in lines 25 and 27, each time it appears, the word “him” and inserting in  
533 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the agent.

534 SECTION 55. Section 4 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
535 striking out, in lines 4, 5 and 8, each time it appears, the word “his” and inserting in place  
536 thereof, in each instance, the following word:- the.

537 SECTION 56. Said section 4 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
538 amended by striking out, in line 14, the word “widow” and inserting in place thereof the  
539 following words:- widowed person.

540 SECTION 57. Said section 4 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
541 amended by striking out, in line 20, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
542 word:- their.

543 SECTION 58. Section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
544 striking out, in lines 2 and 55, each time it appears, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof,  
545 in each instance, the following words:- the veteran.

546 SECTION 59. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
547 amended by striking out, in line 3, the words “he has” and inserting in place thereof the  
548 following words:- they have.

549 SECTION 60. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
550 amended by striking out, in lines 4, 16, 25, 26, 43, 45, 51, 59, 62, 63 and 66, each time it  
551 appears, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:-  
552 their.

553 SECTION 61. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
554 amended by striking out, in lines 5 to 10, the words “unless he has actually resided within the  
555 commonwealth continuously for three years next preceding the date of his application for such  
556 benefits, nor unless the veteran of whom he is a dependent has actually resided within the  
557 commonwealth continuously for three years next preceding the date of such dependent’s  
558 application for such benefits” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- except upon  
559 like terms.

560 SECTION 62. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
561 amended by striking out, in lines 22, 27 and 74, each time it appears, the word “him” and  
562 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- them.

563 SECTION 63. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
564 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “himself” and inserting in place thereof the  
565 following word:- themselves.

566 SECTION 64. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
567 amended by striking out in lines 39, 54, 102 and 103, each time it appears, the word “his” and  
568 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the veteran’s.

569 SECTION 65. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
570 amended by striking out, in line 42, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
571 words:- the secretary’s.

572 SECTION 66. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
573 amended by striking out, in line 57, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
574 words:- the veteran.

575 SECTION 67. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
576 amended by striking out, in line 59, the word “He” and inserting in place thereof the following  
577 word:- They.

578 SECTION 68. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
579 amended by striking out, in line 61, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following  
580 word:- they.

581 SECTION 69. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
582 amended by striking out, in line 92, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
583 words:- the veterans’ agent’s.

584 SECTION 70. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
585 amended by striking out, in lines 95, 99 and 103, each time it appears, the word “mother” and  
586 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- parent.

587 SECTION 71. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
588 amended by striking out, in line 100, the word “her” and inserting in place thereof the following  
589 words:- the parent’s own.

590 SECTION 72. Said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
591 amended by striking out, in line 106, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
592 words:- the secretary.

593 SECTION 73. The seventh paragraph of said section 5 of said chapter 115, as so  
594 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- An increase in income from a  
595 cost-of-living adjustment made to social security, supplemental security income or social  
596 security disability insurance shall not serve to render any recipient ineligible for benefits under  
597 this chapter in the year that the cost-of-living adjustment was issued.

598 SECTION 74. Section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
599 striking out, in lines 2, 8, 11, 57, 60, and 63 to 64, each time they appear, the words “mother or  
600 father” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- parent.

601 SECTION 75. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
602 amended by striking out, in lines 16 to 17, the words “mother’s or father’s” and inserting in place  
603 thereof the following word:- parent’s.

604 SECTION 76. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
605 amended by striking out, in line 33, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
606 word:- them.

607 SECTION 77. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
608 amended by striking out, in line 40, the words “mother and father” and inserting in place thereof  
609 the following word:- parents.

610 SECTION 78. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
611 amended by striking out, in line 41, the words “in his” and inserting in place thereof the  
612 following words:- within their.

613 SECTION 79. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
614 amended by striking out, in line 45, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
615 words:- the secretary’s.

616 SECTION 80. Said section 5A of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
617 amended by striking out, in lines 47 to 48, the words “the petition in his own name” and inserting  
618 in place thereof the following words:- a petition.

619 SECTION 81. Section 6 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
620 striking out, in line 3, the word “him”.

621 SECTION 82. Said section 6 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
622 amended by striking out, in line 12, each time it appears, the word “him” and inserting in place  
623 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the secretary.

624 SECTION 83. Said section 6 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
625 amended by striking out, in lines 15 and 19, each time it appears, the word “he” and inserting in  
626 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the secretary.

627 SECTION 84. Section 6A of said chapter 115 is hereby repealed.

628 SECTION 85. Section 6B of chapter 115 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the  
629 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 19, 28 and 35, each time it  
630 appears, the figure “2,000” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following figure:-  
631 2,250.

632 SECTION 86. Said section 6B of said chapter 115 is hereby further amended by striking  
633 out the figure “2,250”, inserted by section 85, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof,  
634 in each instance, the following figure:- 2,500.

635 SECTION 87. Said section 6B of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
636 amended by striking out, in lines 21 and 30, each time it appears, the word “his” and inserting in  
637 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the veteran’s.

638 SECTION 88. Section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
639 striking out, in line 4, the word “He” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- The  
640 burial agent.

641 SECTION 89. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
642 amended by striking out, in line 8, the words “his wife, or his widow” and inserting in place  
643 thereof the following words:- spouse, or widowed person.

644 SECTION 90. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
645 amended by striking out, in line 10, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
646 words:- the burial agent.

647 SECTION 91. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
648 amended by striking out, in lines 12 and 14, each time it appears, the word “he” and inserting in  
649 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the burial agent.

650 SECTION 92. Said section 7 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
651 amended by striking out, in line 17, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
652 word:- their.

653 SECTION 93. Section 8 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
654 striking out, in line 23, the words “widow, or widower” and inserting in place thereof the  
655 following words:- widowed person.

656 SECTION 94. Section 9 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
657 striking out, in line 3, the words “, as defined in clause Forty-third of section seven of chapter  
658 four,”.

659 SECTION 95. Said chapter 115 is hereby amended by inserting after section 9 the  
660 following section:-

661 Section 9A. The executive office of veterans' services shall have the authority to operate,  
662 maintain and expand the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery located in the city of  
663 Agawam and the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery located in the town of  
664 Winchendon, and may add new locations, subject to the availability of funds, to meet veterans'  
665 and dependents' needs. This authority includes, but shall not be limited to, the maintenance and  
666 upkeep of the cemetery grounds, facilities and infrastructure, the burial and interment services in  
667 accordance with established federal protocols and regulations and the overall management and  
668 administration of the cemeteries. The executive office may adopt additional rules, regulations  
669 and policies as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities and ensure the proper functioning of the  
670 cemeteries under its control.

671 SECTION 96. Section 10 of said chapter 115, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
672 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 23, the word "his" and inserting in place thereof the  
673 following word:- their.

674 SECTION 97. Said section 10 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
675 amended by striking out, in lines 31 and 32, the words "duties of his office" and inserting in  
676 place thereof the following words:- office's duties.

677 SECTION 98. Said section 10 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
678 amended by striking out, in line 32, the word "his" and inserting in place thereof the following  
679 word:- the.

680 SECTION 99. Said section 10 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
681 amended by striking out, in line 37, the words "his duties as treasurer of the district" and  
682 inserting in place thereof the following words:- the district treasurer's duties.

683 SECTION 100. Section 11 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
684 striking out, in lines 2 and 5, each time it appears, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof,  
685 in each instance, the following word:- their.

686 SECTION 101. Said section 11 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
687 amended by striking out, in lines 3 to 4, the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the  
688 following word:- chairperson.

689 SECTION 102. Said section 11 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
690 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
691 word:- the.

692 SECTION 103. Section 15 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
693 striking out, in line 4, the words “he, and his duly accredited agents,” and inserting in place  
694 thereof the following words:- they and their agents.

695 SECTION 104. Said section 15 of said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby further  
696 amended by striking out, in line 11, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
697 word:- a.

698 SECTION 105. Section 16 of said chapter 115, inserted by section 53 of chapter 126 of  
699 the acts of 2022, is hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the following sentence:-  
700 The veterans equality review board shall ensure that veterans receive state-based veteran benefits  
701 if they receive: (i) an other than honorable discharge because of sex, race, color, religious creed,  
702 national origin, age, genetic information, ancestry, marital status, disability; or (ii) any U.S.  
703 Department of Veterans Affairs category eligible for upgrade, including, but not limited to,  
704 mental health conditions, military sexual trauma and traumatic brain injury.

705 SECTION 106. Section 16 of said chapter 115, inserted by section 18 of chapter 154 of  
706 the acts of 2022, is hereby repealed.

707 SECTION 107. Said chapter 115 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

708 Section 18. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of public health  
709 and the adjutant general of the Massachusetts national guard, shall contact all members of the  
710 Massachusetts national guard and all known veterans and members of the United States armed  
711 forces residing in the commonwealth who may be eligible to participate in the United States  
712 Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, including, but  
713 not limited, those who may have served in: (i) Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi  
714 Freedom or Operation New Dawn; (ii) Djibouti, Africa on or after September 11, 2001; (iii)  
715 Afghanistan on or after September 11, 2001; (iv) Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert  
716 Storm; or (v) in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990. Veterans or  
717 service members contacted shall be encouraged to join the United States Department of Veterans  
718 Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and shall be provided with contact  
719 information for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open  
720 Burn Pit Registry and a copy of the informational pamphlet created by the commissioner of  
721 public health pursuant to subsection (b) of section 244 of chapter 111.

722 (b) The commissioner shall create a database of self-identifying service members and  
723 veterans who have been exposed to open burn pits or other airborne hazards, which shall include  
724 the name, address, electronic address, phone number, location and period of service and other  
725 information as deemed necessary. Such information shall be used only for the purposes of  
726 communicating information about exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by

727 open burn pits or other airborne hazards to service members and veterans. The database,  
728 materials or other information shall be confidential and privileged, shall not be subject to chapter  
729 66, or clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 and shall not be subject to subpoena,  
730 discovery or introduction into evidence in any private civil action.

731 SECTION 108. Section 9 of chapter 115A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
732 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 3, the words “home in the city of  
733 Chelsea” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- homes.

734 SECTION 109. Section 3 of chapter 115B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
735 hereby amended by striking out, in line 16, the words “home in the city of Chelsea; and the chair  
736 of the board of trustees of the veterans’ home in the city of Holyoke” and inserting in place  
737 thereof the following words:- veterans’ homes.

738 SECTION 110. Section 51B of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
739 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 17 and 18, the words “and (vi) all other pertinent facts  
740 or matters” and inserting in place thereof the following:- (vi) the military status of the parents,  
741 guardian or caregiver of the child and, if applicable, of the spouse or intimate partner of the  
742 parent, guardian or caregiver of the child; and (vii) all other pertinent facts or matters.

743 SECTION 111. Said section 51B of said chapter 119 is hereby further amended by  
744 adding the following subsection:-

745 (s) The department shall provide notice to appropriate military authorities about an  
746 allegation of an individual subject to a 51A report with a military status in accordance with  
747 section 69B.

748 SECTION 112. Said chapter 119 is hereby further amended by inserting after section  
749 69A the following section:-

750 Section 69B. (a) For the purposes of this section, “family advocacy program” shall mean  
751 the program established by the United States Department of Defense for the prevention of and  
752 response to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse and intimate partner violence in military  
753 families.

754 (b) The commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the family  
755 advocacy program at military installations located in the commonwealth with respect to 51A  
756 reports and data collected for the investigation pursuant to subsection (b) of section 51B and  
757 reported pursuant to military status pursuant to subsection (s) of section 51B. The memorandum  
758 of understanding shall establish procedures and protocols for matters, including, but not limited  
759 to: (i) identifying an individual subject to a 51A report as military personnel; (ii) identifying  
760 appropriate circumstances for reporting to the family advocacy program without reducing the  
761 likelihood of reporting or creating undue risk to the health or wellbeing of the spouse, intimate  
762 partner or child of the military personnel; (iii) reporting to the family advocacy program when an  
763 investigation implicating military personnel has been initiated; and (iv) maintaining  
764 confidentiality requirements under state and federal law.

765 SECTION 113. Subsection (c) of section 73B of chapter 272 of the General Laws, as  
766 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 18, the second  
767 time it appears, and in line 23, the word “department” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
768 instance, the following words:- executive office.

769 SECTION 114. Section 11 of chapter 276A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
770 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 6 and 13 the words “the department” and inserting in  
771 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the executive office.

772 SECTION 115. Section 3 of chapter 71 of the acts of 1996, as amended by section 2 of  
773 chapter 468 of the acts of 2002, is hereby further amended by striking out the second paragraph.

774 SECTION 116. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any member  
775 of a retirement system who is a member in service and a veteran who failed to make the purchase  
776 authorized in paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 of chapter 32 of the General Laws  
777 pursuant to chapter 71 of the acts of 1996, as amended, shall be given a 1-time opportunity to  
778 apply to the retirement system to make said purchase within 1 year from the effective date of this  
779 act. Each retirement system shall provide written notice to all members in service of their  
780 potential eligibility for this purchase within 90 days of the effective date of this act.

781 SECTION 117. (a) The secretary of veterans’ services, in coordination with the executive  
782 office of health and human services, shall convene a working group to review alternative  
783 therapies for mental health treatments for veterans. The working group shall: (i) study whether  
784 psychedelic therapy is associated with improved outcomes among veterans with diagnosed  
785 mental health disorders; (ii) evaluate literature, research trials and expert opinions to determine if  
786 psychedelic therapy is associated with improved outcomes regarding mental health treatment for  
787 veterans; and (iii) issue recommendations regarding the provision of psychedelic therapy to treat  
788 veterans with mental health disorders in Massachusetts. As used in this section, “psychedelic  
789 therapy” shall mean the use of psilocybin, ketamine, or 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine,  
790 under the direction of a health care provider, to treat mental health disorders.

791 (b) The secretary shall appoint the following members of the working group: 2 members  
792 who shall represent medical centers or hospitals in the commonwealth that serve veterans; 2  
793 members who shall represent health insurance companies; 2 members who shall represent  
794 veterans' services organizations; 1 member who shall represent an organization currently  
795 studying this subject matter; and such other members as the secretary deems necessary. The  
796 members of the working group shall have experience in behavioral health or veterans services.  
797 The secretary may designate a chair of the working group.

798 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall file a report of its findings and  
799 any recommendations with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint  
800 committee on veterans and federal affairs, and the joint committee on mental health, substance  
801 use and recovery.

802 SECTION 118. Sections 12 to 15, inclusive, shall take effect on taxable years beginning  
803 on January 1, 2024.

804 SECTION 119. Sections 16 and 18 through 24, inclusive, shall take effect 6 months after  
805 the effective date of this act.

806 SECTION 120. Sections 45 and 85 shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

807 SECTION 121. Section 86 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.