

PA 11-049

SB1069

House	6900-6904	5
Senate	1811-1812, 1941-1943	5
<u>Veterans Affairs</u>	<u>192-194</u>	<u>3</u>

**H – 1112**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL.54  
PART 21  
6898 – 7240**

jr/dp/rgd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

416  
June 2, 2011

roll call. Members to the chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?  
Please check the board to see that your vote has been  
properly cast. The machine will lock and the Clerk  
will prepare the tally. Will the Clerk please  
announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6357, as amended by House A.

Total number voting	146
Necessary for adoption	74
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The bill as amended passes. Will the Clerk  
please call Calendar 519?

THE CLERK:

On page 24, Calendar 519, Senate Bill 1069, AN  
ACT CONCERNING DEATH CERTIFICATE FEE WAIVERS FOR  
VETERANS, favorable report of the Committee on  
Planning and Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Hennessy, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HENNESSEY (127th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The motion before us is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark further, sir?

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Hennessy

REP. HENNESSEY (127th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this bill waives the \$20 fee for one certified copy of a veteran's death certificate when the deceased veterans spouse, child or parent requests a copy.

Madam Speaker the death certificate is the key for survivors to receive necessary benefits such as insurance policies and other things so it's an important thing that they get quickly and I'm glad that we'll be able to facilitate this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

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Will you remark on the bill that is before us?

Will you remark? Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a member of the Veteran's Committee, I certainly do support this bill. I think that the Veteran's family just to get this \$20 break is a step in the right direction. Hopefully we come up with many more incentives for the families of Veterans. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, sir. Representative Giegler, you have the floor.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to thank the Veteran's Committee for raising this bill. One might think this is a minimal fee for us, but it is something that we're giving to our Veterans for their service. Our Veteran's families have to apply for benefits both federally and through the state. They also insurance policies -- they may need four or five copies of their certified certificate. So, this gives a certificate to the family so that they can initiate the benefits they so rightfully deserve and I urge my

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colleagues support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, ma'am. Will you remark further on the bill that is before us? Will you remark further on the bill that is before us? If not, staff and guests please come to the well. Members you're your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to see that your vote has been properly cast. The machine will be locked and the Clerk will prepare the tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 1069, in concurrence with the Senate

Total number voting 145

Necessary for adoption 73

Those voting Yea 144

Those voting Nay 1

Those absent and not voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The bill passes. Will the Clerk please call  
Calendar 406?

THE CLERK:

On page 17, Calendar 406, Substitute for Senate  
Bill 1109, AN ACT CONCERNING BANKS, favorable report  
of the Committee on Banks.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Tong, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Good evening, sir.

REP. TONG (147th):

I move acceptance of the joint committee's  
favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The motion before us is acceptance of the joint  
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.  
Will you remark further?

REP. TONG (147th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill comes to us

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

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1735- 2085**



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SENATE

120  
May 12, 2011

page 11, Calendar 287, Senate Bill 1069.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

That would be the first item to call. Thank you,  
Madame President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madame President turning to Calendar page 11,  
Calendar 287, Senate Bill 1069, AN ACT CONCERNING  
DEATH CERTIFICATE FEE WAIVERS FOR VETERANS, Favorable  
Report of the Veterans Committee, Public Health and  
Planning and Development Committees.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon. Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE:

Good afternoon, Madame President. It's a  
pleasure to see you this afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Same here, sir.

SENATOR LEONE:

Madame President, I move acceptance of the joint  
committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

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SENATE

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May 12, 2011

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval of the bill, will you remark further, sir?

SENATOR LEONE:

Thank you, Madame. What this bill does is pretty straight forward. It's a waiver for death certificate for veterans. It pretty much waives the \$20.00 for one certified copy of a veteran's death certificate when the deceased veterans spouse, child or parents request a copy of that death certificate. And, with that Madame President, I move passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. It's movement on passage of the bill -- approval of the bill. Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE:

Thank you, Madame President. If there's no objection, I move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LEONE:

Thank you.

the Clerk might call the items on the second Consent Calendar so that we might move for a vote on that second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call the bills.

THE CLERK:

Madame President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Starting on page 4, Calendar 102, page 5, Calendar 125, page 6, Calendar 191, page 7, Calendar 104, page 9, Calendar 187, page 11, Calendar 287, page 12, Calendar 240, page 12, Calendar 328, page 12, Calendar 334, page 14, Calendar 366, page 17, Calendar 318, page 18, Calendar 338, page 24, Calendar 472, page 34, Calendar 176, page 37, Calendar 90, page 43, Calendar 197, page 46, Calendar 251. These are the items that the Clerk has on the second Consent Calendar.

HB6176  
SB153  
SB1078  
SB1069  
HB6445  
HB6484  
SB 38  
HB6481  
SB958

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk will you now call for a roll call vote and the machine will be open on Consent Calendar two.

THE CLERK:

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SENATE

251  
May 12, 2011

An immediate roll call vote on Consent Calendar two has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? An immediate roll call vote on Consent Calendar two has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk will you please call the roll call vote again, please?

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote on the second Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? An immediate roll call vote on the second Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? The machine will be locked and the Clerk will call the tally.

Do you want to call it again and this time we'll all -- we're going to recall that vote.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll vote call has been ordered in

the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

The machine will be open.

Have all members voted? All the members voted the machine will be locked and will the Clerk please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Madame President,

Total Number voting 34

Necessary for adoption 18

Those voting Yea 34

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar number two has been adopted.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President. Madame President that will conclude our business for today but at this point would yield the floor for any members for purposes of announcements of committee meetings or other points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**SELECT  
COMMITTEE  
ON VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS  
1 – 230**

**2011  
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## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
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HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE JANICE GIEGLER IN SUPPORT OF

SB 1069 AN ACT CONCERNING DEATH CERTIFICATE FEE WAIVERS FOR  
VETERANS

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Hennessy, and members of the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs, for the record my name is Janice Giegler, State Representative for the 138<sup>th</sup> District. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1069, An Act Concerning Death Certificate Fee Waivers for Veterans.

This bill is intended to give the families of a deceased veteran, the necessary death certificates needed to file papers on behalf of a deceased US Veteran for burial and survivor benefits at a minimal expense to them and at the same time, recognize their service given to our country on behalf of the State.

When the death certificate of an individual who died in the State of Connecticut is filed and recorded in the town of death by the funeral director having charge of the body or his/her representative, as required by state statute, the Town Clerk or Registrar of Vital Statistics shall note to see if the decedent was a US veteran as indicated on the death certificate. If the decedent was a US veteran, said Town Clerk or Registrar of Vital Statistics shall provide at least one (1) copy of the certified death certificate at no expense to said funeral director or family in order to make application for any and all veteran benefits with the US Veterans Administration or any state and local veteran administration.



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In order to apply to the US Veterans Administration for burial benefits and to the Connecticut Veterans, a certified copy of the death certificate must be forwarded to each of these veteran administrations. It is unfortunate that the family must pay \$20 per certificate in order to provide the Federal and State, a certified death certificate in order to apply for veteran widow, dependent children and burial benefits. New York State automatically gives the first certificate at no charge when it is stated on the death certificate that the deceased is a veteran. New York State Public Health – Title 7-4173 Records refers to Veteran Death Certificates “except that no fee shall be charged for a search.....or when required by the veterans administration to be used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in the benefits made available by the Veterans Administration”.

In addition, another death certificate is required when applying to the Soldiers, Sailors and Marine Fund for assistance when the deceased veteran has no financial assistance.

One might consider such a fee to a family minimal, but with the funeral costs escalating, this is a small benefit for our veteran families in obtaining all the death certificates they need in receiving those benefits to which they are entitled for their member who provided service to our country.

Many thanks for your time and giving consideration to the favorable passage of SB 1069.

Sincerely,

Representative Janice R. Giegler



**Connecticut Veterans & Military Coalition**

360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06105

CTMilitaryCoalition@gmail.com

Mar. 1, 2011

**Testimony in Favor of Raised Bills 1069 and 6480**

Good Morning Sen. Maynard, Representative Hennessy and members of the Select Committee on Veterans Affairs. I am Debbi Newton, Legislative Liaison for the newly formed Connecticut Veterans & Military Coalition. The CVMC is an organization of about 20 groups such as the National Guard Association of Connecticut, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, The Marine Corps Association, Association of the US Army and ESGR to name but a few. We held our first meeting in December and have organized to provide one voice here at the State Legislature as well as on Capitol Hill in Washington. We represent more than 400,000 Veterans, Retirees, Servicemembers and their families and survivors.

I apologize for not being in front of you today, but happily the Connecticut Army National Guard has a unit returning home from deployment today and my job has me there.

I speak in favor of two of the bills before you.

**Raised Bill 1069, ACC Death Certificate Fee Waivers for Veterans** will allow the family members of a deceased Veteran to receive one certified copy of that Veteran's death certificate free of any fees. That death certificate is many times the key to unlocking numerous life insurance policies and other financial benefits for survivors of that Veteran. Having quick access to those benefits without having to pay for the item that makes them available will do much in assisting the survivors to get the benefits they need and deserve and are entitled to.

**Raised Bill 6480, ACC the Identification of Connecticut Veterans Eligible for Benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs** is a much needed piece of legislation. I know you will hear from many today who will speak on the need for it and who will be able to give you all kinds of reasons why this is needed. I want to tell you a personal story.

Both of my parents served on Active Duty in the United States Army in the 50s, Dad for two years, Mom for three. Neither of them served during time of war. Neither of them knew they were eligible for VA benefits. My dad was a public school teacher and assistant principal and, as such, had good medical insurance. When he retired, he kept up his insurance and eventually became eligible for Medicare benefits. Of course, his benefits were not as great once he retired, but they did alright.