



Substitute House Bill No. 5404

Public Act No. 24-14

**AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE
AND THE DRIVER'S LICENSE ENDORSEMENT TO OPERATE FIRE
APPARATUS.**

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

Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 14-36a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(d) (1) A license of any class that contains the designation "Q" indicates eligibility to operate fire apparatus. A "Q" endorsement shall signify that the holder either has been trained to operate fire apparatus in accordance with standards established by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control [. No] or has qualifying military training and experience as described in subdivision (2) of this subsection. Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no such endorsement shall be issued to any person until [he or she] such person demonstrates personally to the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, including the Connecticut Fire Academy, any regional fire school or the chief local fire official of any municipality as defined in section 7-323j, by means of testing in a representative vehicle that such person possesses the skills necessary for operation of fire apparatus.

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(2) If the holder of a license of any class is (A) a veteran who applies to the commissioner for a "Q" endorsement not later than two years after the date of discharge from the military and who, not more than two years prior to such discharge, met the conditions and limitations set forth in 49 CFR 383.77(a)(2) or 49 CFR 383.77(b)(2), as amended from time to time, or (B) a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who applies to the commissioner for a "Q" endorsement and who meets the conditions and limitations set forth in 49 CFR 383.77(a)(2) or 49 CFR 383.77(b)(2), as amended from time to time, the commissioner shall waive the requirement under subdivision (1) of this subsection to demonstrate that such veteran or member possesses the skills necessary for operation of fire apparatus. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and manner by which such veteran or member shall apply for such waiver. As used in this subparagraph, "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103.