

# Town of West Hartford

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50 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107-2431

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Public Act 18-47 extends veterans benefits to those with Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharge**

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. (August 24, 2018) – In the continuing effort to better serve our state’s veterans, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law Public Act 18-47 which extends certain state and municipal benefits, currently available to veterans honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in the armed forces, to veterans who received an Other than Honorable (OTH) discharge characterization.

To be eligible for such benefits, a veteran with an Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharge must be diagnosed with one or more of three “Qualifying Conditions” which are:

1. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from military service,
2. A traumatic brain injury (TBI) resulting from military service,
3. Experienced military sexual trauma (MST) as described in 38 U.S.C. § 1720D.

The diagnosis/determination must be made by an individual licensed “to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility” which includes the following licensed persons: Physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Psychologists and Licensed Clinical Social Workers, who shall complete the newly promulgated CT DVA OTH Form 1.

The veteran applying for State or municipal benefits must submit, along with the completed CT DVA OTH Form 1, all other required documentation (e.g. Discharge Form DD-214, relevant agency application, etc.) to the agency or municipality administering the benefit for which the veteran is applying. The administering agency or municipality shall then determine the veteran’s eligibility for the benefit.

**A veteran with a “Bad Conduct” or “Dishonorable” discharge is NOT eligible for veterans benefit under this Public Act.**

The effective date of Public Act 18-47 is October 1, 2018. For more information, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dva> or call (860) 616-3600.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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