



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 531

February Session, 2004

House Bill No. 5471

House of Representatives, April 8, 2004

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. STILLMAN of the 38th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING OPTIONAL MUNICIPAL VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 12-81f of the general statutes, as amended by
2 public act 03-6, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004, and applicable to assessment years*
4 *commencing on or after October 1, 2004*):

5 (a) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may
6 provide that any veteran entitled to an exemption from property tax in
7 accordance with subdivision (19) of section 12-81, as amended, shall be
8 entitled to an additional exemption, provided such veteran's
9 qualifying income does not exceed [(1) the applicable maximum
10 amount as provided under section 12-81l, or (2)] an amount
11 established by the municipality, [not exceeding the maximum amount
12 under said section 12-81l by more than twenty-five thousand dollars.]
13 The exemption provided for under this subsection shall be applied to

14 the assessed value of an eligible veteran's property and, at the option
15 of the municipality, may be an amount up to ten thousand dollars or
16 an amount up to ten per cent of such assessed value.

17 (b) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may
18 provide that any veteran's surviving spouse entitled to an exemption
19 from property tax in accordance with subdivision (22) of section 12-81,
20 as amended, shall be entitled to an additional exemption, provided
21 such surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed [(1) the
22 maximum amount applicable to an unmarried person as provided
23 under section 12-811, or (2)] an amount established by the municipality,
24 [, not exceeding the maximum amount under said section 12-811 by
25 more than twenty-five thousand dollars.] The exemption provided for
26 under this subsection shall be applied to the assessed value of an
27 eligible surviving spouse's property and, at the municipality's option,
28 may be in an amount up to ten thousand dollars or in an amount up to
29 ten per cent of such assessed value.

30 (c) Any such veteran or spouse submitting a claim for such
31 additional exemption shall be required to file an application on a form
32 prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the
33 assessment date with respect to which such additional exemption is
34 claimed, provided when an applicant has filed for such exemption and
35 received approval for the first time, such applicant shall be required to
36 file for such exemption biennially thereafter, subject to the provisions
37 of subsection (d) of this section. Each such application shall include a
38 copy of such veteran's or spouse's federal income tax return, or in the
39 event such a return is not filed such evidence related to income as may
40 be required by the assessor, for the tax year of such veteran or spouse
41 ending immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which
42 such additional exemption is claimed.

43 (d) Any person who has submitted application and been approved
44 in any year for the additional exemption under subsection (a) or (b) of
45 this section shall, in the year immediately following approval, be
46 presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
All Municipalities	Net Grand List Loss	Potential	Potential

Explanation

A municipality would experience a loss to their net grand list (assessed value less exemptions permitted under state law) if they elect to increase the income thresholds that a veteran or their spouse can have and still qualify for the optional property tax exemption. The loss to a municipality's net grand list is expected to be minimal and therefore not necessitate an adjustment to their mill rate.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 5471

AN ACT CONCERNING OPTIONAL MUNICIPAL VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires towns offering the local option additional veteran property tax exemption to set an income limit under which veterans and their surviving spouses qualify for the exemption, which can be for up to \$10,000 or 10% of the property's value. Current law gives them the option of setting the limits at those for the Circuit Breaker Program (for 2003, \$26,500 if single, \$32,300 if married) or an amount that is up to \$25,000 above these limits (for 2003, \$51,500 if single, \$57,300 if married).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004 and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2004.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 16 Nay 1

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 42 Nay 1