

CCM 2013 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

Your source for local government management information www.ccm-ct.org

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 19, 2013

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SB 152 | Municipal Property Tax Exemption Program For One Hundred Percent Disabled Veterans |
| SB 383 | Municipal Option To Provide An Additional Property Tax Exemption For One Hundred Per Cent Disabled Veterans |
| HB 5133 | Expansion Of The Property Tax Exemption For Veterans |
| HB 5134 | Property Tax Exemption For Veterans |
| HB 5556 | Municipal Option To Provide A Property Tax Exemption For All Veterans |
| HB 5753 | Property Tax Exemption For Veterans Who Served In Time Of War Or Are Disabled |

These worthy proposals would impose "de facto mandates" by advocating various "options" that would expand criteria and eligibility for local property tax exemptions – forcing many municipalities to feel compelled to enact, especially as our nation heals from one war, and winds down another. In a situation such as this, the State seeks to buy good will from a segment of the public – using extremely limited, local property tax dollars.

Good intentions can have unintended consequences – as would be the case with these proposals. Simply put, our hometowns cannot afford such a new unfunded state mandate as these bills would impose.

CCM urges the Committee to (1) obtain detailed fiscal analyses on the impact these well-intended proposals would have on our communities -- particularly on local programs and services, and (2) **hold these proposals until further analyses are conducted.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager of CCM via email rlabanara@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 710-0491.