



***PROGRAM REVIEW AND
INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE***

February 29, 2016

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 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5348, "An Act Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination Among the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Other State Agencies and Municipalities Based on a Program Review and Investigation Committee Study"

CCM *has concerns* with this bill.

This bill, would among other things, mandate training for municipal employees designated to act as a veterans' service contact person. CCM appreciates the increased access to critical services HB 5348 attempts to provide. However, we are concerned that this newly mandated training could have a negative fiscal impact on towns and cities. Additionally, the training mandated by this bill could be particularly troublesome in municipalities with minimal staffing levels. In many of these instances employees are already fulfilling cross functional roles. The training mandated by this bill would likely require the designated employee to be absent during their normal working hours and could negatively impact the delivery of municipal services.

CCM requests that the Committee **amend HB 5348 to add clarifying language that would (1) specify the required training must only be completed once during an individual's tenure as a veterans' service contact person and (2) allow updated or new training information to be sent to the designee electronically without requiring additional training.**

###

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel C. Giungi, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at dgiungi@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3023.