



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

February 23, 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.

SB 202, "An Act Concerning Veterans' Property Taxes"

The bill, while well intentioned would impose a "de facto mandate" allowing for a municipality to increase the current \$10,000 property tax exemption for Veterans to \$15,000 – positioning many towns and cities to feel compelled to enact. In a situation such as this, the State seeks to buy good will from a segment of the public by using extremely limited, local property tax dollars. Additionally, the bill would provide property tax relief to a select few at the expense of the remaining local taxpayers.

Good intentions can have unintended consequences – as would be the case with this proposal. The non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) has agreed – and has identified similar proposals, from previous years, as having “potential costs” on towns and cities.¹

CCM urges the Committee to (1) obtain a detailed fiscal analyses on the impact that SB 202 would have on our communities – particularly on local programs and services, and (2) **hold this proposal until further analyses is conducted.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.

¹ OFA Fiscal Note No. 557; SB 383. 2013.