



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 191**

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7134

*House of Representatives, March 28, 2019*

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. BORER, D. of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING REDUCED BUS FARES FOR VETERANS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 13b-38h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) The Department of Transportation shall provide for changes in  
4 fares for mass transportation by land in accordance with the provisions  
5 of this section and shall not be required to conform to the procedures  
6 in chapter 54.

7 (b) Prior to adopting any change in fares for mass transportation by  
8 land, the department shall (1) give notice of the proposed fare change,  
9 its amount and the date it is proposed to take effect by advertising, at  
10 least once, in one or more newspapers having general circulation in all  
11 areas of the state that may be affected by such change in fares, and (2)  
12 in such notice, provide information on the time and place a public  
13 hearing is to be held on such proposed change. Such notice shall be  
14 posted at least fifteen days prior to such public hearing. The

15 department shall send a copy of such notice to the chairpersons and  
 16 ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General  
 17 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation and  
 18 to finance. A public hearing on the proposed fare change shall be held  
 19 at such time and place as will be convenient for public attendance.

20 (c) The department shall provide for reduced fares for state-owned  
 21 or state-controlled bus public transportation service for any person  
 22 who presents to the fare inspector, as defined in section 13b-2, or the  
 23 driver of such bus, as applicable, a motor vehicle operator's license or  
 24 identity card that indicates such person's status as a veteran, in  
 25 accordance with subsection (e) of section 14-36h.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	13b-38h

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Subsec. (c) was rewritten for clarity and consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**VA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 20 \$</b>	<b>FY 21 \$</b>
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential
Department of Transportation	TF - Uncertain Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to allow individuals who have a license indicating they are a veteran to ride state owned or controlled buses at a reduced fare. The reduced amounts are uncertain pending decisions by the DOT.

On average, each CT resident takes the bus 13 times per year at a rate \$1.75 per trip. There are 11,450 veteran residents with the flag license. The associated, maximum annual revenue loss (assuming the reduced rate is zero and all eligible veterans ride the bus) based on these factors is estimated to be \$220,214. It should be noted that the number of veterans who currently ride the bus is unknown.<sup>1</sup>

The number of individuals who have a license indicating they are a veteran is 11,450. The bill may result in a revenue gain to the Special Transportation Fund due to individuals choosing to pay the \$30 fee for a veteran status license before their renewal date. There are currently

<sup>1</sup> There are 11,450 veterans eligible under the definition of the bill. The CT population is 3.6 million and the FY 18 passenger trips are 39,267,633.

177,000 veterans in the State of Connecticut.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to reduced fare.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 7134*****AN ACT CONCERNING REDUCED BUS FARES FOR VETERANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to allow veterans to pay a reduced fare to ride state-owned or -controlled bus public transportation service. They must present their driver's license or identity card indicating their veteran status to the fare inspector or bus driver, as applicable. (The bill does not specify the amount of the fare reduction.)

Under the bill, the reduced fare applies to veterans who are:

1. honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, or any reserve component, including the National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of federal law (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions);
2. discharged under conditions other than dishonorable or for bad conduct from active service in the armed forces and have a qualifying condition (i.e., a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, or who have disclosed a military sexual trauma experience); and
3. former armed forces members who are entitled to federal retirement pay or who would be so entitled but for their age.

By law, veterans may ask the Department of Veterans Affairs to have their status as a veteran included on their driver's license or identity card. The law requires the Department of Motor Vehicle commissioner to include such status on each driver's license or identity

card the department issues, as applicable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/12/2019)