



***PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE***
February 27, 2019

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 99% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

- **SB 556 An Act Concerning Additional Compensation For Certain Retired Public Safety Employees**

CCM **opposes** this bill.

CCM supports efforts to make employees whole and provide adequate compensation when they are injured while performing work related duties. However, the changes brought about by SB 556 would create a system where claimants receive greater compensation while they are out of work than when they were employed.

SB 556 represents a potentially significant unfunded mandate on towns and cities. **The costs associated with this proposal are incalculable and volatile.**

Furthermore, some municipalities already provide the type of benefit outlined in SB 556. These benefits have been collectively bargained in good faith. Additionally, other municipalities have also elected to provide similar benefits for police officers and firefighters when they require additional assistance. Importantly, some municipalities have provisions in place regarding pension offsets. SB 556 would provide the local legislative body of a municipality with a mechanism to invalidate components of collective bargaining agreements after negotiations have concluded if any stakeholder is unhappy with the result. This would undermine the integrity of the collective bargaining process.

Accordingly, the benefit outlined in SB 556 should be realized through collective bargaining.

CCM is also concerned regarding the vague definitions in the bill such as "disabled," and "public safety employee." It is unclear as to how these terms are defined within the proposed legislation and how they relate to current statute.



The bill also lacks set criteria that would be used to determine who is eligible for the benefit. It is also unclear as to whether or not the local legislative body would be required to vote for each individual applying to receive the benefit, or if they must vote once for an adoption of the provisions outlined in the bill. The subjective nature of the way in which this benefit could be awarded could prove to be inconsistent and discriminatory in nature. This would expose towns and cities to a significant amount of liability to litigation.

CCM urges the Committee to **take no action on SB 556.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy Carroccia, Advocacy Manager of CCM at dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or (203) 843-0705, or Daniel C. Giungi, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at dgiungi@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3023.