

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-562

AN ACT LOWERING THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF  
**Title:** FOR ELDERLY PERSONS.

**Vote Date:** 2/20/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/14/2019

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

**Aging Committee**

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The language asks that eligibility for property tax relief for elderly persons be lowered from age 70 to age 65, to be effective October 1, 2019 and should be applicable to assessment years on or after October 1, 2019.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**None expressed.**

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**None expressed.**

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Ms. Betsy Gara, Executive Director, Council of Small Towns:** They submitted testimony in opposition to this bill. She points out under the Elderly/Disabled Circuit Breaker Program towns could be reimbursed by the Office and Policy Management but because of state budget deficits funding for this program was discontinued. Even without reimbursement the communities must continue to provide local residents with the tax deductions. The testimony points out that this is an unfunded mandate and that this program should not be expanded and in fact, that efforts should be made to reinstate funding for this program.

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities submitted testimony a request that this proposal not be approved by the Committee because it would impose a “de facto mandate” on communities because many would be forced to act. It is also pointed out that the tax relief would apply to a select few while other taxpayers would be required to make up the difference.

**Reported by: Gaia McDermott, Clerk  
Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk**

**Date: 2/25/19**