

Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6429

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EXPANSION OF

Title: PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/18/2021

File No.: 261

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Veterans' Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

In this legislative session, a number of proposed bills were introduced related to property tax relief for veterans. The Veterans' Affairs Committee recognizes that this issue is important and is proposing to take a comprehensive look at how property tax relief for veterans can be most appropriately structured to recognize the service of veterans to our country while balancing the fiscal needs of our municipalities.

***Proposed Substitute Language: In LCO#4890, standard language related to Task Forces is removed and replaced by language establishing a working group consisting of the leadership of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and members with expertise in property tax or veterans' benefits. A report on findings would be submitted no later than January 1, 2022. This substitute language ensures that all necessary stakeholders are part of the process.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Commissioner Thomas Saadi, Department of Veterans Affairs:](#) Commissioner Saadi provided written and spoken testimony in support of this bill. He recommended the creation of a task force with the following members: members of the VA Committee, the Commissioners of Veterans Affairs and Revenue Services, the Office of Policy and Management, Statewide Veteran Service Organization Leaders and representatives from the CT Conference of Municipalities and Council of Small Towns. This task force could conduct a review of existing Veteran tax exemptions and also consider permissive approaches that provide municipalities with the flexibility to adopt increased levels of exemptions based on local capabilities.

Commissioner Saadi is opposed to SB-611, as the DVA does not have the staff or expertise to manage a study of property tax abatements.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed on HB-6429.

Support for other property tax-related bills listed below.

- Proposed SB-412 AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS BE ADJUSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.
 - [Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.](#)
- Proposed SB-611 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS.
 - [Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.](#)
- Proposed HB-5738 - AN ACT EXCLUDING VETERANS' DISABILITY BENEFITS FROM QUALIFYING INCOME WHEN DETERMINING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.
 - [Rep. Bill Buckbee, 67th Dist.](#)
- Proposed HB-5739 - AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO GRANT A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO GOLD STAR PARENTS AND GOLD STAR SPOUSES.

AND

- Proposed HB-6315 - AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN VETERANS
 - [Rep. Ron Napoli, 73rd Dist.](#)
 - [Joseph Nolan, Gold Star Parent](#)
- Proposed SB-787 - AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS FROM PROPERTY TAX.
 - Sen. Kevin Kelly (spoken testimony)
 - [Heidi Cornell, veteran](#)
 - [Brenda Kupchick, First Selectwoman, Fairfield](#)

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed on HB-6429.

Opposition to all property tax-related bills listed below.

- Proposed SB-412 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS BE ADJUSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.
- Proposed HB-5738 - AN ACT EXCLUDING VETERANS' DISABILITY BENEFITS FROM QUALIFYING INCOME WHEN DETERMINING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.
- Proposed HB-5739 - AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO GRANT A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO GOLD STAR PARENTS AND GOLD STAR SPOUSES.
- Proposed SB-787 - AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS FROM PROPERTY TAX.

- Proposed HB-6315 - AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN VETERANS
 - [Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager, CCM](#)
 - [Betsy Gara, Executive Director, COST](#)

- Proposed SB-611 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS.
 - [Gary Brown](#), veteran

Reported by: Erica Byrne, Clerk

Date: March 25, 2021