

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5405

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE PROVISION OF

Title: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS.

Vote Date: 3/14/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/7/2024

File No.: 144

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs

REASONS FOR BILL:

To establish a task force to study providing a property tax exemption to certain permanently and totally disabled veterans.

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

In line 2, replace "additional property tax exemptions" with "an exemption from the payment of all property taxes"

In line three, add language clarifying qualified veterans must be permanently and totally disabled

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

No administration provided testimony on this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Randy Collins, Associate Director of Policy, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CMM)

Provided testimony in support of this bill. CMM endorses the idea of researching the fiscal impact of tax exemption on towns and cities, and requests the committee designate at least two members of the research committee be municipal CEOS representing small and large

communities, and that the study not be limited in scope to providing relief from property but but rather to investigate various ways tax relief may be afforded to veterans.

Taylor Salman, Veterans Committee Chair, Lodge 1746, International Association of Machinists

Provided testimony in support of this bill. Salman endorses the creation of the task force so that legislators and the public may be better informed on the subject of veteran tax relief, and states that easing the tax burden upon them would impact real change on them and their families.

Tracy Savage, Veteran

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Savage has found it increasingly difficult to remain living in the state due to the cost of living, and feels the state falls short of the benefits provided in comparison to others. The cost of living on top of medical expenses and other bills leaves little disposable income for vets, and Savage goes on to add that money saved by veterans on taxes will go back into their local town economies as well.

Mark Nati, Veteran

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Nati expresses concern that disabled veterans face an inordinate tax burden which can often price many out of basic necessities like home ownership. Nati goes on to state that property tax should be entirely waived for 100% disabled veterans, who, left with a greater degree of disposable income, will also be able to be spent in their local economies.

Alison Weir, Executive Director, CT Veterans' Legal Center (CVLC)

Provided testimony in support of the bill. CVLC supports property tax exemptions for disabled veterans, a provision several states already have in place. As Connecticut taxes are very high, even disabled veterans who have paid off their mortgages may annually face the prospect of losing their home. Weir further urges the committee to include tax exemptions for all personal property, as many veterans may not own real estate, but do own other personal properties such as automobiles.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No testimony was provided in opposition to this bill.

Reported by: Garrett Smith

Date: March 26, 2024