# Planning and Development Committee
# JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5286 / Bill Status / Public Hearing Testimony
**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL TAX ABATEMENT FOR SURVIVING DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.
**Vote Date:** 3/6/2026
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable
**PH Date:** 2/27/2026
**File No.:**

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**SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Planning and Development Committee

**CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Tom Delnicki, 14th Dist.

**REASONS FOR BILL:**

HB-5286 proposes that the legislative body of any municipality may establish a program to abate all or a portion of property taxes of the surviving spouse or domestic partner of a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician who dies while in the performance of such officers, firefighters, or technician's duties.

This proposed language and revision to the statute would include “domestic partners” to embrace privacy of choice and non-discrimination based on these choices, making an amendment is critical.

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Coventry Town Council, Chairwoman, Lisa Thomas:** supports this bill as she says it embraces the privacy of choice in a time when individual civil rights and longstanding policies are being reversed. It is inequitable to only provide this benefit to some couples.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Ellie Rosen** **Date: 3/3/2026**