

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-6728

AN ACT CONCERNING FREE RIDERSHIP FOR VETERANS ON
MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ON VETERANS' DAY.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 26 \$ | FY 27 \$ |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Transportation, Dept. | TF - Cost | Minimal | Minimal |

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in minimal annual cost to the Special Transportation Fund by exempting veterans from bus fare on Veterans Day, provided the veteran presents a driver's license or ID card showing his or her veteran status.

There are an estimated 152,000 veterans in Connecticut; however, there are fewer than 15,000 veterans who have a license/ID card indicating they are a veteran, which is required for receiving fare-free bus service under the bill. While the number and frequency of veterans who currently ride the bus is unknown, the cost for a single day each year in foregone revenue for this population is expected to be minimal.

The bill also requires the Department of Transportation to study and report on the feasibility of exempting veterans from fees on all modes of public transportation on Veterans Day, as described in the bill. Undertaking this study is within the department's expertise and is not expected to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of veterans riding the bus.