

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1243

## AN ACT CONCERNING BUS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Transportation	TF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

#### ***Municipal Impact:***

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Cost	Potential	Potential

### ***Explanation***

**Section 1** exempts veterans from fares on state-owned or controlled buses. There are an estimated 152,000 veterans in Connecticut; however, there are estimated to be approximately 15,000 veterans who have a license or ID card indicating they are a veteran, which is a requirement for fare-free bus service under the bill.

The number and frequency of veterans who currently ride the bus is unknown, therefore a range of potential costs will be used. If veterans license/ID holders ride the bus at the same rate as the overall adult population in Connecticut, then the annual cost to the STF would be approximately \$182,000 annually. If this population uses the bus twice as much as the adult population, then the cost would be approximately \$364,000 annually.

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**Section 2** requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a discount program for public transportation bus passes for high school students. This section stipulates that any agreements between DOT and school districts for bus passes do not result in increased costs for DOT. There is a potential cost to districts that choose to enter into agreements with DOT for discounted or free (to students) bus passes. The impact to districts will depend on the terms of any agreement with DOT and the number of passes sold or distributed to students.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the terms of any agreement.