
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6728

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

SUMMARY

This bill exempts veterans (see BACKGROUND) from paying to ride state-owned or -controlled public bus transportation services on Veterans' Day (i.e. November 11). To receive the benefit, the veteran must present the bus driver or fare inspector, as applicable, a driver's license or identity card that shows his or her veteran status.

Existing law allows veterans to ask the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to have their status as a veteran included on their driver's license or identity card. DVA must verify the status within 30 days after receiving the request and notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) about it. The status must then be included on each original, renewal, or duplicate driver's license or identity card DMV issues to the veteran (CGS § 14-36h(e)).

The bill also requires the transportation commissioner, by January 1, 2026, to (1) study the feasibility of annually exempting veterans from paying fares on Veterans' Day on all public transportation in the state by January 1, 2030, and (2) if feasible, develop an implementation plan to do it. By February 1, 2026, he must submit a report to the Transportation and Veterans' and Military Affairs committees with the study's results and recommendations for legislation to implement the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Qualifying Veterans

A "veteran" is anyone honorably discharged or released under

honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (i.e. the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)