

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5292 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN SALES TO MILITARY AND VETERANS-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE SALES AND USE TAXES.

Vote Date: 3/10/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Tami Zawistowski, 61st Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Certain veterans' service organizations, colloquially known as 501(c)(19) organizations, receive tax-exempt status from the federal government. Despite this status, these organizations still have to pay sales and use taxes in the state of Connecticut. To make tax-exempt status more consistent between the state and federal tax codes and to commend the work that these organizations do, this bill would exempt 501(c)(19) organizations from the state's sales and use taxes on the sale of tangible personal property or services.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Tami Zawistowski, State Representative, Connecticut General Assembly: Rep. Zawistowski expressed her support for this bill and highlighted the inconsistencies in the tax exemptions that Connecticut grants to nonprofit organizations. She noted that exempting all 501(c)(19) organizations from sales and use taxes would introduce consistency both between veterans' organizations and with the federal government's tax exemptions.

K. Robert Lewis, Legislative Committee Chairman, American Legion Department of Connecticut: Mr. Lewis expressed his support for this bill, stating that it would relieve the American Legion of an ever-increasing sales and use tax bill. He pointed out that veterans'

service organizations could use the funds that would otherwise go to this bill for community programming for veterans.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 3/17/26