

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5388 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING PROCESSING FEES FOR MEDICAL RECORDS FOR
Title: APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY RETIREMENT.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill was made as there exists a need to alleviate the financial burden that may accompany retrieving medical records for filling for disability retirement. At present, medical offices may levy a small charge per piece of paper, even when no physical copies of the forms are needed. There already exists some exemptions for this such as when workers compensation is requesting that information, and this would now expand those payment exemptions to medical records for disability retirement.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Tammi Atkins, Staff Representative, Connecticut Employees Union Ind: Submitted testimony in support of HB 5388. Ms. Atkins stated that their SEIU union represents over 6,000 active public sector employers across Connecticut who provide valuable services within the state. She states they put their life on the line every day to plow, repair and maintain the state's roads, bridges, and buildings. In some extreme cases some members may be able to file for disability retirement if left permanently disabled. Often the toughest part is getting through the barriers at the doctor's offices and their ability to charge exorbitant fees for a patient's own medical records. HB 5388 would make it so a doctor's office couldn't charge a fee when the request is made for a disability retirement application.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Paul Amarone, Senior Policy Director, CBIA: Submitted testimony in opposition to HB 5388. Mr. Amarone states that HB 5388 would prohibit health care providers from charging patients, their attorneys, or authorized representatives for medical records that are needed to support an application for disability retirement benefits. This would shift the additional uncompensated administrative costs onto small community-based health care providers. He states that this would expand existing exemptions further and require providers to absorb the full cost of producing those records. Those mandates would increase operational expenses and contribute to higher health care costs.

Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez

Date: 03/16/2026