



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**Public Hearing - February 18, 2021
Veterans' Affairs Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joseph Giulietti
Department of Transportation**

Proposed S.B. 614 - An Act Concerning Bus Public Transportation for Veterans.

The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) respectfully opposes Proposed S.B. 614, An Act Concerning Bus Public Transportation for Veterans.

The introduction of new discounts for veterans and possibly others would require 1) a financial impact analysis to determine revenue loss to the overall transit system, 2) funding plan to fill the "gap" created by additional discount programs, 3) a Title VI equity analysis to ensure the additional discount programs do not disproportionately or disparately impact environmental justice communities, and 4) a public outreach/public hearing process to seek public comment on the Title VI analysis and fare discount proposal.

This proposal has negative revenue implications for the Department because veterans that are currently paying fares would now travel for free. Recent census data shows nearly 200,000 veterans reside in CT. This would impact revenue on the CTtransit system as well as the transit district systems. This loss of revenue would increase the subsidy required to operate the bus systems which would have a fiscal impact on DOT's budget and the Special Transportation Fund.

For further information or questions, please contact Anne Kleza (anne.kleza@ct.gov) or Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.