

# Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5173

AN ACT ALLOWING A PERSONAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR  
STIPENDS PAID TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER

**Title:** AMBULANCE MEMBERS.

**Vote Date:** 3/1/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/22/2022

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Safety and Security Committee

### **Co-Sponsors:**

Rep. Brian Lanoue, 45<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Tom Delnicki, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, 105<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Rick L. Hayes, 51<sup>st</sup> Dist.

Rep. Maria P. Horn, 64<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Donna Veach, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Kerry S. Wood, 29<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. John K. Hampton, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Kara Rochelle, 104<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Ben McGorty, 122<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

Rep. Tami Zawistowski, 61<sup>st</sup> Dist.

Rep. Greg S. Howard, 43<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

Rep. Patrick S. Boyd, 50<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Gary A. Turco, 27<sup>th</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Many towns rely on volunteer firefighters and ambulance members. In order to recruit and retain these members a stipend is paid yearly to those who attend a certain number of meetings, trainings and emergency calls. These stipends are taxed at the federal and state level. Fire Chiefs have said that this tax is making it hard for them to recruit and retain the staff. This bill will exempt the stipend from Connecticut Income Tax and hopefully it will help these departments recruit and retain their current and future volunteers. These stipends should be fully exempt from the Connecticut Income Tax.

In the 2021 session, HB5722 passed out of the Public Safety and Security Committee (unanimous with one absent) was referred to the Finance Committee (unanimous with one absent) which also passed it out of committee.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Expressed

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Rep. Brian Lanoue, House of Representatives, State of Connecticut**

All five towns in his district are dependent on volunteer firefighters and ambulance drivers. The average stipend is \$1,500.00, then the stipend is subject to federal and state taxes. This is making it difficult for the Fire Chiefs to recruit and retain volunteers. Very often in one of his districts it was reported by the chief that he has a difficult time dispatching an ambulance due to lack of personnel.

**James A. Baldis, Chief of Department, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company**

Supports this bill as it is a commonsense bill. Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Members do not serve for the stipend, they serve from the goodness of their heart. The stipend should be exempt from Connecticut Income Tax and it will support the infrastructure of volunteers who serve.

**John Carew, Legislative Representative, Connecticut State Firefighters Association**

Any legislation that supports retaining and recruiting volunteers in our state should be supported.

**The following also support this bill.**

**Betsy Gara, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Small Towns**

**Robert C. Glaspy, Jr. B.Sc., P., NRP, Director of External Affairs, Connecticut Association of Paramedics and EMT's**

**Lisa Thomas, Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council, Town of Coventry**

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst.Clerk**

**Date: 03/13/2022**