



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 140

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5298

House of Representatives, March 24, 2026

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. FOSTER of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS TO PLACE OR MAINTAIN WAR OR VETERANS' MEMORIALS OR MONUMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) For the fiscal year
2 ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of
3 Veterans Affairs shall administer a program to provide grants to
4 municipalities and nonprofit providers of human or social services for
5 capital expenditure projects to place or maintain war or veterans'
6 memorials or monuments.

7 (b) Not later than January 1, 2027, the department shall develop
8 eligibility criteria to be used in selecting among applicants for such
9 grants, develop application forms and deadlines and post in a
10 conspicuous location on the department's Internet web site a description
11 of the grant program that includes, but is not limited to, such criteria,
12 forms and deadlines.

13 (c) (1) For the purposes described in subdivision (2) of this subsection,
14 the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to
15 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in
16 principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate two million dollars.

17 (2) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
18 stated in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be used by the
19 Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of providing grants to
20 municipalities and nonprofit providers of human or social services for
21 capital expenditure projects under subsection (a) of this section.

22 (3) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
23 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
24 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
25 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
26 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
27 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
28 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
29 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
30 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
31 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
32 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
33 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
34 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
35 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
36 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
37 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
38 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
39 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
40 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
41 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
42 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
43 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
44 such principal and interest as the same become due.

45 (d) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the

46 department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
47 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
48 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
49 and military affairs. Such report shall include information for the
50 preceding calendar year on the number of applications for grants that
51 were received, the number of grants that were awarded and a list of the
52 municipalities and nonprofit providers of human or social services that
53 received grants.

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | October 1, 2026 | New section |

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 27 \$ | FY 28 \$ |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| Treasurer, Debt Serv. | GF - Cost | None | See Below |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 27 \$ | FY 28 \$ |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Various Municipalities | Potential Revenue Gain | See Below | See Below |

Explanation

The bill authorizes \$2 million in General Obligation bonds during FY 27 for grants for veterans' memorials and monuments. To the extent bonds are fully allocated and expended, total debt service is expected to be approximately \$3.1 million over the 20-year duration of the bonds.

The bill could result in municipal revenue gain up to \$2 million, to the extent that future awards go to municipal recipients.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the terms of any bonds issued.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5298

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS TO PLACE OR MAINTAIN WAR OR VETERANS' MEMORIALS OR MONUMENTS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), starting FY 28, to administer a grant program for municipalities and nonprofits providing human or social services for capital expenditure projects to place or maintain war or veterans' memorials or monuments. It authorizes up to \$2 million in state general obligation bonds and requires DVA to use the proceeds for the grant program the bill establishes. The bonds are subject to standard statutory bond issuance procedures and repayment requirements.

By January 1, 2027, DVA must (1) develop (a) eligibility criteria for selecting among grant applicants and (b) related application forms and deadlines, and (2) conspicuously post this information on its website.

The bill also requires DVA, starting by January 1, 2028, to annually report to the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee with information for the preceding calendar year on the number of grant applications received, the number of grants awarded, and a list of the municipalities and nonprofits that received grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/10/2026)