

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5298 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS-RELATED

Title: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS.

Vote Date: 3/10/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/24/2026

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:

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill establishes a bonding-funded grant program within the Department of Veterans Affairs to build and maintain war or veteran memorials and to repair or replace mechanical systems in the homes of elderly, disabled, and means-limited veterans. This bill would ensure that projects commemorating wartime service and veterans have a mechanism to receive state funding and provide an avenue to repair accessibility systems for veterans who need it; many disabled and elderly veterans require certain mechanical systems in order to make full use of their homes. Certain nonprofit organizations help repair these systems for veterans, but those organizations lack the funding to be able to do that work on a large scale.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

To address the concerns expressed by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding their ability to administer the proposed grant program, the substitute language removes the portion of the bill that references the repair of mechanical systems in the homes of certain veterans.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Ron Welch, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs](#): Commissioner Welch expressed his opposition to this bill, explaining that the Governor's budget did not contain the resources to administer the program. He also noted that this would be the first grant program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and that the Department does not have the appropriate expertise or staff to evaluate grant applications.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 3/18/26