

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

SB 224, relative to increasing the maximum amount of the optional veterans' tax credit.

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

Time Opened: 10:01 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:14 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Lang, Gray, Perkins Kwoka and Long

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Rochefort

Bill Analysis: This bill allows towns and cities to adopt an increase of the optional veterans' tax credit against property taxes up to \$1000.

Sponsors:

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. Avard

Sen. Lang

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Long

Sen. Abbas

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Sullivan

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Watters

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Rep. Weyler

Rep. S. Minor

Rep. Litchfield

Rep. Porcelli

Who supports the bill: Senator Bill Gannon, Jennifer Ramsey

Who opposes the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Gannon, District 23, Prime Sponsor

- There was an increase from \$500 to \$750 a few years ago, after many years of no increase.
- There has only been one cost of living adjustment in twenty-one years.
- Veterans tend to have higher incidents of costly issues vs. the general public.
- \$250 is a small increase to thank our veterans.
- Towns can choose for themselves whether to adopt this tax credit.

Senator Gray asked about the changes to 72:28 in 2022 and the optional combat veteran credit in 72:28-c that was changed in 2019; Senator Gray said he doesn't think

Senator Gannon's intention is reflected in this bill because the different statutes related to veteran tax credits might contradict each other.

Senator Lang asked if Senator Gannon knew that as of 2023, most towns had not adopted the \$750 yet.

- Senator Gannon said that the number of towns that have adopted it in the 13 towns he represents is at least half.

Jennifer Ramsey, Department of Revenue Administration

Senator Lang asked Ms. Ramsey if the various veteran tax credits overlap.

- Ms. Ramsey said she would get that data and get back to the committee.
- Does not believe that statutorily they interact but the definitions are somewhat overlapping.

Senator Lang then asked if the credits are stacking; for example, if a town adopts all three, is the veteran eligible for all three, or are they only eligible for one?

- Ms. Ramsey said she would check and get back to the committee.

Senator Gray said there does seem to be some confusion. The way he understands it, disabled veterans get the disabled veterans' credit, but then there are credits for veterans who served in certain conflicts and others who qualify for the all-veterans credit. Senator Gray said it is important to understand which veterans get which credits.

Senator Gray suggested to Senator Gannon that he might want to contact the Veteran's Council for clarification.