

COMMITTEE ON REVENUE ~ HOUSE BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H.3140

Name: AN ACT EXEMPTING VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS FROM STATE AND LOCAL MEALS TAX

Sponsor(s): Rep. Daniel J. Hunt (Boston)

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Reporting Date: August 23, 2025

Prior History: 2023-24 (H.2838): Ordered to a House Study
2021-22 (H.2952): Ordered to a House Study
2019-20 (H.2508): Ordered to a House Study
2017-18 (H.3625): Ordered to a House Study

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 64H – Sales tax: The Massachusetts sales tax is 6.25% of the sales price or rental charge of tangible personal property or certain telecommunications sold or rented within Massachusetts, unless specifically exempted by statute. The purchaser pays sales tax to the vendor and the vendor remits the sales tax to DOR.

M.G.L. c. 64H § 6 – Exemptions: Certain categories of tangible personal property are exempt from the sales tax, including food, clothing, and medicine.

M.G.L. c. 64L – Local option meals tax: Cities and towns, by vote of the local governmental board, may impose a local meals tax on the sale of restaurant meals originating within that city or town at a rate of 0.75% of the gross receipts of the restaurant vendor.

PROPOSED CHANGE(S):

This legislation would exempt from the sales tax and local option meals tax any meals served by a veteran's organization that are:

- Provided free of charge,
- Served at a potluck event,
- Served at a price equal to the cost of the food, or
- Served by a veterans' organization for which the sale of the meals accounts for less than 20% of the organization's annual revenue.