



February 16th, 2017

Everyone,

The most important issue for the Fire Service this week in Connecticut is the Governor's adjustment to the state budget for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2019 in [HB-5035](#). A close look at page 6 of the Governor's Bill (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/TOB/h/pdf/2018HB-05035-R00-HB.pdf>) reveals that operating budgets for the Regional Fire Schools have been zeroed out as in past proposals from Governor Malloy. However, this latest budget proposal shows brackets [] around line items T153 and T158 – T166 (the nine Regional Fire Schools), and, that indicates that these budget line items totaling \$780,741 are to be altogether eliminated from the state budget if this current proposal is passed in its present form. In fact, it is our opinion that new legislation would actually be required to insert the bracketed [] line items back into the state budget moving forward. We feel that passage of this version of the Governor's budget would be devastating to our Regional Fire School System.

This week, there is a hearing to address [HB-5035](#) and there is an opportunity for public testimony. The Joint Committee on Appropriations' Regulation and Protection sub-committee will have a public hearing on Friday February 23rd, 2018 at the Legislative Office Building in Room 2C at 5:30PM. I realize that this may be a difficult time for most to plan to attend to offer oral testimony, however, I ask that our membership submit written testimony this week to let the Appropriations sub-committee know that we oppose having the Regional Fire Schools removed from the state budget. Please, we need to make this clear to the members of Appropriations that we feel it makes no sense for Connecticut to bond millions of dollars for much needed fire schools and fail to provide funding to operate them.

Please submit written testimony in Word or PDF format to APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. All public hearing testimony, written & spoken, is public information. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and will be indexed by internet search engines.

I have also begun to track bills for this session that might either directly or indirectly affect the Fire Service. Please see the list below for bills that have come out this week:

[HB-5003](#) - AN ACT EXEMPTING SMOKE DETECTORS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS FROM THE SALES AND USE TAXES.

[HB-5070](#) - AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE FIREFIGHTER'S CANCER RELIEF FUND.

[HB-5080](#) - AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING SCHOOLS.

[SB-103](#) - AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.

[SB-120](#) - AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE YANTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT.

[SB-121](#) - AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE TAFTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

[SB-140](#) - AN ACT INCREASING FINES FOR VIOLATIONS COMMITTED IN A CONSTRUCTION ZONE, UTILITY WORK ZONE, TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ZONE AND FIRE STATION ZONE AND IMPROVING THE SIGNS AT SUCH ZONES.

Also, the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security raised the following concepts at their last meeting this week:

- An Act Concerning the Appointment of a Fire Marshal and Police Officers at the Connecticut Airport Authority.
- An Act Permitting Volunteer Fire Departments to Provide Traffic Control at Certain Events.
- An Act Concerning Intimidation on Account of Occupation as a Public Safety Employee.
- An Act Concerning a Standardized Firefighter Test.
- An Act Concerning Carbon Monoxide Detection and Warning Equipment in Certain Businesses.
- An Act Concerning Mental Health and Wellness Training and Suicide Prevention for Police Officers.

Rep J.P. Sredzinski noted at the meeting that the raised concept for Mental Health and Wellness Training might include PTSD. These raised concepts might now move forward to become committee bills.

I have also attached a **House Bill Status Report**.

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

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