



March 3rd, 2018

Everyone,

This past week, I attended the last-minute public hearing for [SB-193](#) - AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION STATUTES. The bill proposes changes to Dept of Consumer Protection regulations that would allow companies to transport gasoline for mobile refueling. The Fire Marshals oppose the bill, CSFA supports their position and we made that message clear at the hearing. You can read more details on this new industry that is trying to come to Connecticut in the following article:

<http://www.autonews.com/article/20160502/OEM06/160509986/gasoline-delivery-startups-want-to-fill-up-cars-anywhere-but-is-it>

Here's one of the businesses that delivers gasoline – take a look at how they are marketing themselves:

<http://www.filld.com/faqs/>

Moving forward, the next meeting of the Fire EMS Caucus will be this coming Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. Please note that the start time for this next meeting has been moved up to 9:30 AM. Please see the caucus meeting agenda below:

Fire/EMS Legislative Caucus

NOTICE OF TIME CHANGE

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

9:30AM-10:30AM

LOB ROOM 2B

- I. CONVENE MEETING
- II. REMARKS BY THE CO-CHAIRS
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. CHIEF JOHN ALSTON, NEW HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT
 - b. FRANK RICCI, NEW HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT; UNION PRESIDENT
 - c. ANN ADAMS, DCF, JUVENILE FIRESETTERS PROGRAM
- IV. SHORT SESSION CAUCUS INITIATIVE(S)
- V. DISCUSSION OF TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL THANKS,

REP. BRIAN OHLER (R-64)

REP. PAT BOYD (D-50)

CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS

Also, I have added more new bills to this week's House Bill Status Report. The newest legislation includes the following (click on the blue bill links for more details):

- [H.B. No. 5301](#) - (RAISED) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. 'AN ACT PERMITTING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE TRAFFIC CONTROL AT CERTAIN EVENTS', to permit volunteer fire departments to provide traffic control on a state highway or municipal road during a special event of limited duration sponsored by a municipality or veteran, religious, civic, educational or charitable organization.
- [H.B. No. 5329](#) - (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND UPHOLSTERED RESIDENTIAL FURNITURE', to prohibit the sale and distribution of children's products and upholstered residential furniture containing organohalogen flame retardant chemicals.
- [H.B. No. 5381](#) - (RAISED) INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE. 'AN ACT IMPOSING A SURCHARGE ON CERTAIN PERSONAL RISK INSURANCE POLICIES TO FUND REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS' OPERATING BUDGETS AND CERTAIN FIREFIGHTER TRAINING COSTS', to impose a surcharge on the net direct premiums of homeowners and renters insurance policies written by insurance companies, on property or risks located or resident in this state, to fund the operating budgets of regional fire schools, certain training costs and fees and purchases of fire equipment.
- [H.B. No. 5389](#) - (RAISED) TRANSPORTATION. 'AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION ISSUES', to allow temporary and permanent livery permit holders to use stretcher vans to transport elderly persons and persons with disabilities who must be transported on a stretcher.

- [S.B. No. 275](#) - (RAISED) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING GOOD SAMARITAN PROTECTIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS WHO RENDER EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO ANIMALS', to extend civil immunity under the Good Samaritan law to first responders and animal control officers who provide emergency medical assistance to animals.
- [S.B. No. 281](#) - (RAISED) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL HOT WATER HEATERS, CERTAIN CERTIFICATIONS BY STATE AGENCIES AND THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY, COMMUNICATION WITH THE STATE BUILDING INSPECTOR AND STATE FIRE MARSHAL AND REVISIONS TO OTHER STATUTES RELATED TO BUILDINGS AND FIRE SAFETY'
- [S.B. No. 282](#) - (RAISED) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. 'AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE INTENTIONAL INJURY OR KILLING OF POLICE ANIMALS OR DOGS IN VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS', to increase the penalties for intentionally injuring or killing any police animal or dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team.
- [S.B. No. 283](#) - (RAISED) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. 'AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED RELATIVE TO FIRE LOSSES', to allow federal, state and local law enforcement officers to obtain insurance records from insurance companies to aid in the investigation of fires or explosions of an undetermined or incendiary origin.
- [S.B. No. 305](#) - (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT REQUIRING THE LABELING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING FLAME RETARDANTS', to reduce exposure to unsafe flame retardant chemicals.

While we await developments from the Fire EMS Caucus regarding their plans for obtaining funds for the operating budgets of the Regional Fire Schools, the Joint Committee on Insurance and Real Estate has raised [H.B. No. 5381](#), a bill similar to our insurance policy surcharge bill that failed last year. Even though this bill may not be the way we ultimately fund the RFS operating budgets, we are fortunate that HB 5381 gives us an additional opportunity for public testimony (oral and written) about the importance of funding our Regional Fire Schools' operating budgets. It appears that we will not be given a chance to testify against the Governor's proposed budget cuts in [HB-5035](#). You may remember how I explained previously that not only have Regional Fire Schools been zeroed out as in past budgets from Governor Malloy, there appears to be an attempt to entirely remove [Regional Fire School budget line items] from the budget in his most recent proposal. However, **HB 5381 now gives us the opportunity again for testimony at a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 at the Legislative Office Building in Harford at 12:00 PM in Room 2D.** We really need to submit as much testimony as possible so that the importance of funding these schools stays in the spotlight. I just received word this morning that Representative Linda Orange will submit testimony in support of funding our fire schools. I hope that there will be additional testimony from members of the Fire Service and Fire EMS Caucus.

Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to INStestimony@cga.ct.gov. Testimony should clearly state testifier name and related Bills. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved

for Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement.

March 6th is another important day for the Fire Service to be present at the LOB, and, it is important that we continue to submit testimony. **I ask that members of the Fire Service attend the Fire EMS Caucus meeting in Class A Uniform if possible.** If you can also attend the Joint Committee on Insurance and Real Estate Committee's public hearing for **HB 5381** at noon, it would be helpful. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to submit oral testimony.

This week, Walter Summers shares an update on bills from the Fire Marshals:

- 1) DAS was unsuccessful to have the smoke alarm language raised this year in the Public Safety Committee. Nicole will be reaching out to Terrance to discuss strategy.
- 2) Roger Nelson testified yesterday against the mobile fueling language in the CPC bill. He did not get out until after 5:00. Thanks you Roger.
- 3) DESPP was unsuccessful to get the fast track regulation language raised in Public Safety this year.
- 4) We continue to work with the FIRE/EMS Caucus to educate the committee on issues.
- 5) We are waiting for language to be released on the fireworks bill.
- 6) We will be attending the FPC meeting and the IRC meeting today at DAS.

Also, the co-chairs of the Fire EMS Caucus are attempting to organize a bigger and better Fire Service Day for us this session. Developments in the plan will also be discussed at the caucus meeting Tuesday morning.

Again, I have attached an updated House Bill Status Report.

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

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