



March 9th, 2018

Everyone,

First, I would like to thank everyone who made the time to show up at the LOB this past Tuesday. Furthermore, I offer special thanks the members of the Fire Service who appeared in Class A Uniform that day. Our presence at the Fire EMS Caucus and the important public hearings that day was most definitely noticed and appreciated. The Fire EMS Caucus meeting was well-attended by the Fire Service and, if you missed it, you can watch the entire meeting courtesy of the Connecticut Network. We've been told that the video links from the Fire EMS Caucus meetings are the most popular videos coming out of the Capitol this year – 3000 video hits and climbing on the CT Network website. You can watch the most recent Fire EMS Caucus meeting on the following link:

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=15074>

Fire EMS Caucus co-chair Rep. Pat Boyd announced plans and the caucus voted to co-sponsor Fire Service Day tentatively scheduled for April 11th, 2018. Boyd expects that the legislature will be in session that day and that he hopes many more legislators and members of the Fire Service will attend. Rep. Boyd also said that the funding of the operating budgets of the Regional Fire Schools was the top priority this session. Also, Fire Chief John Alston from New Haven made public comment during the caucus meeting and spoke of the importance of the Region Fire School system for urban municipalities as well as for the smaller suburban communities with volunteer firefighters. Fire Chief Denis McCarthy from Fairfield also spoke about the importance of restoring funds for Regional Fire Schools that have been cut by Governor Malloy. April 11th, 2018 will also be the date for the next Fire EMS Caucus meeting. I will post a schedule for that day as soon as possible.

Also, the following bill has been added to our bill tracking this week:

[SB-419](#) - AN ACT INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS.

This week the Fire Marshals ask that we join them as they oppose a [SB-435](#) - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS. There is a public hearing before the General Law Committee at the Legislative Office Building for this bill on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018 at 10 AM in Room 2C. You can submit written and oral testimony. If you would like to submit oral testimony, please contact me as soon as possible:

Written testimony needs to be in word or PDF format and emailed to gltestimony@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.

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgbillstatus/cgbillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB00435&which_year=2018

I have attached an updated House Bill Status Report.

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

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