



February 1st, 2019

Everyone,

More than twenty new bills directly or indirectly related to the Fire Service were proposed this past week and are now being tracked in our House Bill Status Report. For those who are following weekly, this week's new related bills begin with H.B. 6516 from the House and with S.B. 699 from the Senate. There continue to be new bills introduced on a wide variety of issues and I encourage everyone to take some time to review the entire list of related proposed bills that now number about 100. We are pleased to continue to see proposals related to our top priorities: funding for the construction and operation of our Regional Fire Schools, funding for our cancer legislation, and legislation related to Post Traumatic Stress for first responders. As I mentioned last week, we should be aware that legislation proposing the legalization of consumer grade fireworks has been proposed again this session despite our unanimous Fire Service opposition to similar legislation last year.

One public hearing on a Fire Service related bill is scheduled in front of the Joint Committee on Public Health for next week:

**SB-795**

([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=SB-795](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB-795)) -

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS.

To protect physicians and other health care professionals who use automated external defibrillators in the scope of their practice or employment against civil liability when the automatic external defibrillator malfunctions.

**The Public Health Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 1D of the LOB.** The Committee is accepting electronic testimony via email at

[phtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:phtestimony@cga.ct.gov). Please submit electronic testimony in Word or PDF format no later than 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 3, 2019. If you are unable to submit electronic testimony, please submit 10 copies of written testimony no later than 8:30 A.M. on Monday, February 4, 2019 in Room 3000 of the LOB. Please submit separate testimony for each bill. Testimony submitted after the deadline may not be available to Legislators until after the hearing. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. If you would like to testify, please contact me ASAP.

We still do not have a meeting date for our next Fire/EMS Caucus, however, the caucus co-chairs report that they are attempting to schedule the next meeting so that representatives from the Department of Administrative Services, the Office of Policy Management and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection can attend and discuss issues related to our Regional Fire Schools.

While we await the announcement of the Fire/EMS Caucus meeting, I continue to urge our membership to invite their respective legislators to join the caucus. If your representative or senator has attended caucus meetings in the past, please thank them and let them know we need their continued support. If your legislator is newly elected, please let him or her know that best way to help the Fire Service is to join the caucus.

I have also attached the CSFA House Bill Status Report that I will continue to update weekly.

If you would like to receive a copy of this update by email, **please contact me by email and I will add your name to my distribution list.**

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

**The Connecticut State Firefighters Association**

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