



February 8th, 2019

Everyone,

This week several public hearings have been announced for proposed bills that are either directly or indirectly related to the Fire Service. If you are interested in testifying at any of the public hearing this week, please contact me as soon as possible. If you submit testimony for any Fire Service-related bills, please let me know. Here is a list of committees and their bills with scheduled public hearings of interest to the Fire Service next week:

Joint Committee on Public Health

The Public Health Committee will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 11, 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. Please submit electronic testimony in Word or PDF format no later than 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 10, 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 11, 2019 in Room 3000 of the LOB. Please submit separate testimony for each bill.

Asst. Chief Rick Hart, legislative representative from the UPFFA is planning to testify on the HB-5910 “the Foam Bill”.

The following bills will be addressed in the public hearing on Monday, February 11:

HB-5910 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05910-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT LIMITING THE USE OF POLYFLUOROALKYL CHEMICALS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS. To limit the use of polyfluoroalkyl chemicals in certain products.

HB-6128 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06128-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS LICENSED OR CERTIFIED AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL BUT WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYED AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL. To allow for an exemption to continuing education requirements for certain emergency medical services personnel.

HB-6134 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06134-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE UPGRADING OF AMBULANCE SERVICES. To prohibit certain requirements in order for an emergency medical services provider to upgrade its ambulances.

HB-6368 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06368-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT ALLOWING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS TO ADMINISTER EPINEPHRINE WITHOUT THE USE OF AUTOMATIC PREFILLED CARTRIDGE INJECTORS. To reduce municipal costs for emergency medical services by allowing the administration of epinephrine without automatic prefilled cartridge injectors.

Joint Committee on Housing

The “Smoke Detector Bill” is an important bill for the Fire Service scheduled for a public hearing next week. I ask that our membership submit testimony to the legislators on the Public Housing committee letting them know we are in favor of this legislation.

The Housing Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. in Room 2B of the LOB.** Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. in Room 2700 of the LOB. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Please submit 25 copies of written testimony to the Committee staff at 9:00 A.M. in Room 2700 of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to HSGtestimony@cga.ct.gov. 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. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

The following bill will be addressed in the public hearing on Thursday, February 14:

HB-6079 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06079-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT REQUIRING FUNCTIONING SMOKE DETECTORS IN ALL RESIDENTIAL HOMES. To require functioning smoke detectors in all residential homes.

Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security

This is another important public hearing for us next week in Public Safety, the bill for SB-664 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS. This is the same bill that the Fire Service opposed last year and I ask that our membership submit testimony to the legislators on the Public Safety and Security committee letting them know we still oppose this legislation.

The Public Safety and Security Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. in Room 1D of the LOB.** Sign-up for the hearing will begin 9:00 A.M. in Room 3650 of the LOB. Please submit 40 copies of written testimony to the Committee staff at 9:00 A.M. in Room 3650 of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to PStestimony@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. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

The following bills will be addressed in the public hearing on Thursday, February 14th:

HB-5153 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05153-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OR DELIVERY OF BODY ARMOR TO FIREFIGHTERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL. To allow firefighters and persons who provide emergency medical services to more easily obtain body armor for use in dangerous work environments.

HB-5156 (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05156-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING FOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING JUVENILES WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND NONVERBAL LEARNING DISORDER. To require first responders to receive training on techniques for handling incidents involving juveniles with autism spectrum disorder and nonverbal learning disorder.

HB-5455 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05455-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFIED FOREST FIREFIGHTERS. To create a more efficient process to mobilize qualified forest firefighters.

HB-5575 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05575-R01-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS FOR FIRE STARTING BEHAVIOR TREATMENT. To permit the court to suspend a delinquency proceeding for certain fire starting offenses and order a child to participate in a fire starting behavior treatment program.

HB-5660 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05660-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT REQUIRING IDENTIFICATION OF BUILDINGS USING TRUSS TYPE CONSTRUCTION. To provide safety information to firefighters and other emergency personnel concerning building with truss type construction.

HB-5758 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05758-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT EXEMPTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL FROM FEES FOR A CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK. To exempt volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency services personnel from fees for a criminal history records check.

HB-5923 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05923-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS FEES AND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS. To waive fees associated with conducting criminal history records checks on volunteer firefighters during the hiring process.

HB-6155 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06155-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALIZATION OR CONSOLIDATION OF 9-1-1 DISPATCH CENTERS. To help towns save money through regionalization or consolidation of 9-1-1 dispatch centers.

HB-6384 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06384-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES AND MEDICAL TESTING FEES FROM THE FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF PROGRAM. To allow the firefighters cancer relief program to reimburse eligible firefighters for insurance deductibles and medical testing fees.

SB-66 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00066-R01-SB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONEMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF ELDERLY PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CONFINED TO A STRETCHER. 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.

SB-664 (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00664-R00-SB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS. To permit the sale and use of consumer grade fireworks.

I have also attached the weekly updated CSFA House Bill Status Report.

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

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