



February 15th, 2019

Everyone,

This most notable developments this past week were in the public hearings in front of the Joint Committee on Public Health, The Joint Committee on Public Safety and the Joint Committee on Housing.

On Monday, Deputy Chief Rick Hart of the UPPFA testified in front of the Public Health Committee on **H.B. 5910** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05910-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT LIMITING THE USE OF POLYFLUOROALKYL CHEMICALS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS. Please note that there is also another "Foam Bill", **S.B. 78** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00078-R00-SB.PDF>) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN FOOD PACKAGING AND FIREFIGHTER FOAM. You can watch Dep. Chief Hart's public hearing testimony on the Connecticut Network (CT-N) on the following link:

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=16015>

Fast forward to time code 18:00 to see Sen. Alexandra Berstein's introduction of Dep. Chief Hart's testimony. You should also view questions and answers regarding foam that begin with Sen. Heather Somers at time code 22:30.

On Thursday, there was testimony in front of the Public Safety and Security Committee most notably on **S.B. 664** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00664-R00-SB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS. You can view the public hearing testimony on the Connecticut Network on following link:

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=16027>

Fast-forward to time code 3:00 to hear the testimony from Commissioner James Rovella, newly appointed to DESPP. Rovella testifies on 9-1-1 dispatch centers, fireworks and other concerns. Also of interest is the Q & A on the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security between Rep. Pat Boyd, our Fire EMS Caucus co-chair and the commissioner at time code 29:05.

*Deputy Chief Rick Hart of the UPFFA testifies on **H.B. 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, **H.B. 5660***

*(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05660-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT REQUIRING IDENTIFICATION OF BUILDINGS USING TRUSS TYPE CONSTRUCTION, **S.B. 664***

*(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00664-R00-SB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS, and **H.B. 6384** AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES AND MEDICAL TESTING FEES FROM THE FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF PROGRAM (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06384-R00-HB.PDF>) beginning at time code 1:12:45.*

*Roger Nelson of CFMA testifies on “the Fireworks Bill”, **S.B. 664** at time code 1:45:04.*

*Sen. Kevin Witkos testifies on his own bill, **S. B. 664** at time code 2:41:10*

*Rep. William Buckbee introduces firefighter testimony on **H.B. 5455***

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05455-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFIED FOREST FIREFIGHTERS at time code 3:17:00.

*Of particular interest is the testimony of Michael Dapkus, of Dapkus Fireworks in Durham, Connecticut with regard to **S.B. 664**. Dapkus also owns Stateline Fireworks in Winchester, New Hampshire and testified in favor of the bill at time code 4:45:10. I believe Dapkus also testified last year on the same bill.*

Additionally, on Thursday, Roger Nelson of the CFMA testified in front of the Joint Committee on Housing on **H.B. 6079** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06079-R00-HB.PDF>) AN ACT REQUIRING FUNCTIONING SMOKE DETECTORS IN ALL RESIDENTIAL HOMES. The public hearing was not recorded on video so I do not have a link for viewing. Testimony in favor of the bill reportedly went well.

Moving forward, I have no public hearings to report this coming week, so **I ask that our membership step up submitting written testimony in opposition to S.B. 664 “The Fireworks Bill”. The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security is still accepting written testimony. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to PStestimony@cga.ct.gov.** Testimony should clearly state testifier name and related Bills. 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.

Please be aware that there are some concepts on issues related to the Fire Service that have not yet been raised by a legislative committee. In other words, we may still add new Fire Service-related bills to the list that we are tracking.

We are still waiting for our Fire/EMS Caucus co-chairs to set the date for the next caucus meeting.

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. Please put "CSFA Update Request" as the subject of your email. If you have already requested and I missed it, I apologize, sometimes the email gets thick on this end. Please submit again with the subject "CSFA Update Request".**

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

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