



March 1st, 2019

Everyone,

For those who would like to watch DESPP Commissioner James Rovella's testimony as he made his agency presentation to the Joint Committee on Appropriations on Tuesday of this past week, you can view the Connecticut Network (CT-N) coverage on the following link:

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=16061>

(Note: Commissioner Rovella's testimony begins at timecode 01:31:55)

Most of you are probably aware that over the past week Governor Lamont's Chief Operating Officer, Paul Mounds sent a letter to all state agency heads and asked for "all unclassified appointment personnel to submit a letter of resignation" effective at the close of business Feb. 28. Once CSFA President John Carew learned that State Fire Administrator Jeff Morrissette and State Fire Marshal Bill Abbott were among the people who had received such a letter, we contacted Chief Operating Officer Mounds and invited him to a special meeting of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations so he could hear first-hand how important and integral these two individuals are to the fire service and public safety in communities across this state. Mr. Mounds immediately accepted the council's invitation and scheduled a meeting with us in less than 24 hours. After the Governor's Chief Operating Officer heard from every member of the council how important Fire Administrator Morrissette and Marshal Abbott are to our Fire Service, he informed the council that he appreciated our efforts. The Chief Operation Officer also assured us that at this time, he has no plans to make any personnel changes with respect to Fire Service administrators. In fact, the meeting went so well, Mr. Mounds informed the Joint Council that he was interested in a follow-up meeting in the coming weeks to discuss our legislative priorities in depth along with other topics of importance to the Fire Service. Additionally, our two Fire/EMS Caucus co-chairs, Rep. Pat Boyd and Rep. Ben McGorty have also let me know they plan to attend that next meeting as well.

Good news - we have begun tracking a "PTSD Bill" – **S.B. 164** AN ACT INCLUDING CERTAIN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF "PERSONAL INJURY" UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATUTES (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00164-R01-SB.PDF>).

There is now specific language in the bill (underlined below) that adds firefighters to the first-responders covered by the proposed bill:

or (IV) in the case of any police officer or firefighter, is diagnosed as post-traumatic stress disorder by a licensed and board certified mental health professional, and determined by such professional to be originating from the police officer or firefighter visually witnessing the death or maiming of one or more human beings and which is not the result of some natural cause and the visual witnessing of such death or maiming, or the visual witnessing of the aftermath of such death or maiming, occurred the police officer or firefighter was engaged in the line of duty.

Additionally, there are other bills for which we really need to submit more written testimony:

- **S.B. 664** "The Fireworks Bill".(<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. Please submit testimony in opposition to this bill to The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to PStestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **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. Please submit testimony supporting the bill to the Joint Committee on Housing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to HSGtestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **H.B. 6384** (<https://www.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. Please submit testimony supporting this bill to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to PStestimony@cga.ct.gov

Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz has asked DAS to provide an update to the Regional Fire Schools Committee. The Speaker has scheduled this meeting for Tuesday, March 5th @ 9:30. The meeting will be held in room 1E of the LOB.

The executive board of CSFA has decided that our association will take a neutral position on **H.B. 5153** AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OR DELIVERY OF BODY ARMOR TO FIREFIGHTERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05153-R00-HB.PDF>).

As I mentioned last week, there still continue to be concepts on some 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. I have added a few this week. Please review the attached updated House Bill Status Report.

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

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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