



March 8th, 2019

Everyone,

The meeting held by Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz for CSFA's Education Committee and all legislators this past Tuesday was well-attended. I would like to thank members of the Fire Service who took the time to attend and helped to show support and interest for our Regional Fire Schools. The newly-appointed Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Josh Geballe addressed the Education Committee and although he did not reveal any specifics regarding the future allocation of bonding money for Regional Fire School projects, he seemed positive about moving forward with continuing school construction for the Valley, Wolcott and Middlesex when the state makes funding available. I will do my best to keep everyone updated on developments that happen with respect to bonding for Regional Fire Schools construction.

As I mentioned last week, there are still other bills for which we really need to submit more written testimony. Written testimony is essential to convincing legislators who decide whether a bill moves forward:

- **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

Here is a link to all the written testimony submitted to date for S.B. 664:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBill.asp?comm_code=ps&bill=SB-00664&doc_year=2019

WE NEED MORE TESTIMONY AGAINST THIS BILL SUBMITTED FROM THE FIRE SERVICE.

- **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

Additionally, I have also received feedback that there are fire departments interested in submitting testimony supporting the following bills that we have been tracking:

- **H.B. 5125** AN ACT INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN FIRST RESPONDERS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05125-R01-HB.PDF>)
- **H.B. 5643** AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE OBSTACLES TO MERGING OR CONSOLIDATING FIRE DEPARTMENTS FROM MULTIPLE TOWNS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05643-R00-HB.PDF>)

Send email written testimony for the above two bills in Word or PDF format to PDtestimony@cga.ct.gov. Testimony should clearly state the testifier's name and related bills. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to items on the Agenda.

Rick Hart of the UPFFA reports that **S.B. 164** AN ACT INCLUDING CERTAIN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF "PERSONAL INJURY" UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATUTES (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00164-R01-SB.PDF>), "the PTSD Bill" is still a work in progress. Legislators writing the bill continue to add language that includes volunteer and career firefighters for coverage. We'll continue to monitor changes in the bill's language that are expected any day now.

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

Additionally, I ask that if you plan as a member of the Fire Service to submit oral or written testimony about any proposed legislation, please contact CSFA President John Carew (carew@cfsa.org) or myself (collins@cfsa.org) in advance so we can keep track and be sure that we remain unified with regard to our support for or opposition to any bill.

I have attached an 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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