



March 15th, 2019

Everyone,

I've gotten feedback this past week that there was some good local media coverage of the Fire Summit 2025 meetings that are being held this month at various locations across the state. Take a minute and watch and read the story done by WFSB on the following link:

https://www.wfsb.com/news/firefighters-hold-meeting-to-discuss-resources-amidst-budget-troubles/article_2785e7e8-4471-11e9-adaa-63cdc8589511.html

There is good news to report this week on the "PTSD Bill" **S.B. 164 AN ACT INCLUDING CERTAIN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF "PERSONAL INJURY" UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATUTES.** The bill was voted "Joint Favorable" yesterday in the Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees. Chief Rick Hart of the UPFFA reports that legislators are still working on finalizing language in the bill that includes both volunteer and career firefighters for coverage.

Last week, I did not include information about a public hearing that took place this past week about an agency bill presented by the Department of Consumer Protection, **H.B. 7299 AN ACT MAKING CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT STATUTES**

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-07299-R00-HB.PDF>).

"Section 4" of this proposed bill would make mobile gasoline retail-refueling legal in Connecticut. Similar legislation was proposed last year and the Fire Service opposed it. We need to present the same opposition this year. "Section 4" of the bill reads as follows:

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 14-319 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 1, 2020):

(a) No person shall sell or offer for sale any gasoline or other product intended for use in the propelling of motor vehicles using combustion type engines over the highways of this state without having applied for and received from the commissioner a license to sell such gasoline

or other product. Each person applying for any such license shall, in such application, state the location of each place or station where such person intends to sell or offer for sale any such gasoline or other product, or, if an on-demand mobile fueling operation is seeking licensure, state the business location and service area of such operation. Each such license shall be renewed annually. A license fee for each such place or station shall be charged as follows: For each station at a fixed location containing one pump, one hundred dollars; and, for each station containing more than one pump, one hundred dollars, plus twenty-eight dollars for each pump in excess of one, and for each on-demand mobile fueling operation, five hundred dollars for the first mobile tank truck and one hundred dollars for each additional mobile tank truck. The fees shall be paid to the commissioner.

Both Roger Nelson of the Fire Marshals and I listened to the comments and questions from legislators regarding this bill, and, we agree that there are few legislators who appear to favor this bill who clearly do not understand the inherent danger of delivering gasoline sales at places other than gas stations.

The best way to let legislators know our position on the bill is to submit written testimony to the Joint Committee General Law. **Please submit testimony in opposition to “Section 4” of H.B. 7299** in Word or PDF format to GLtestimony@cga.ct.gov. 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.

Additionally, I ask again 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@csfa.org), Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations Chairman Chief Dave Billings (billingsd@manchesterct.gov) or myself (collins@csfa.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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