



March 22nd, 2019

Everyone,

Several bills that we have been tracking are moving forward and have been found Joint Favorable by legislative committees at this point in the session. Here is a list of Fire Service-related bills that we should watch. I have provided links to the latest available version of each bill:

H.B. 5125 AN. ACT INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN FIRST RESPONDERS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-05125-R000079-FC.PDF>)

H.B. 5153 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF BODY ARMOR BY FIREFIGHTERS, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05153-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 5455 AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFIED FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05455-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 5538 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES FOR CERTAIN RETIREES UPON SUBSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT BY A BOARD OF EDUCATION. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05538-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 5575 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS FOR FIRE STARTING BEHAVIOR TREATMENT. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-05575-R000051-FC.PDF>)

H.B. 5658 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF RED AND BLUE LIGHTS ON VEHICLES OPERATED BY POLICE OFFICERS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-05658-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 6384 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES AND LABORATORY AND DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FEES FROM THE FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF PROGRAM. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06384-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 6570 AN ACT CONCERNING SAFETY AND SECURITY IN NONGOVERNMENTAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06570-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 6929 AN ACT ALLOWING CERTAIN STATE AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS TO FILE WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED WHILE TRAVELING TO AND FROM WORK. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06929-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 6958 AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL EXERCISES ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-06958-R01-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 7145 AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION TO FURNISHED RELATIVE TO FIRE LOSSES. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-07145-R00-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 7146 AN ACT CONCERNING INTIMIDATION ON ACCOUNT OF OCCUPATION AS A PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-07146-R00-HB.PDF>)

H.B. 7229 AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY IN RENTAL UNITS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-07229-R00-HB.PDF>)

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

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>)

S.B. 549 AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER WORK WEEKS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00549-R01-SB.PDF>)

S.B. 795 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019SB-00795-R000008-FC.PDF>)

S.B. 870 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DRONES BY LAW ENFORCEMENT. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-00870-R00-SB.PDF>)

S.B. 1001 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF SMOKE DETECTORS. (<https://cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/s/pdf/2019SB-01001-R00-SB.PDF>)

Please note that the language available for the "PTSD Bill" (S.B. 164) is the latest available at the printing of the update. Chief Rick Hart of the UPFFA has scheduled a meeting of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations on Wednesday of this coming week to discuss language changes for the bill that still need to be made. I will post developments here.

I have received feedback this week that there is growing concern about **H.B. 5658** ("The Red & Blue Lights Bill") and I plan to bring up the matter at the next Joint Council meeting. At this time, CSFA has not taken a position either for or against the proposed bill, however, that may change.

There is also concern that **S.B. 66** ("The Stretcher Van Bill") is moving forward and would potentially create dangerous transport conditions for stretcher-bound patients. I have asked for a meeting with one of the bill's co-sponsors next week. I will report any developments here in this weekly update.

Additionally, it appears that the “Fireworks Bill” (S.B. 664) is essentially dead and did not make it out of committee.

Also, legislators changed the language in Section 4 of the “Mobile Retail Gasoline Re-Fueling Bill” (H.B. 7299) to reflect the current fire code, however, there is no avenue of enforcement for those who might create violations.

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@cfsa.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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