



April 12th, 2019

Everyone,

The Fire/EMS Caucus meeting went very well this past week and was well-attended by both legislators and members of the Fire Service. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the meeting. Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Ben McGorty and Rep. Pat Boyd led the discussion which included an update from the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control by Jeff Morrissette, State Fire Administrator. Deputy Chief Rick Hart of the UPFFA gave an update on "The PTSD Bill" and Chief Denis McCarthy gave an update on Fire Summit 2025. Also, Assistant Chief Scott Bisson of the CSFA Education Committee presented legislators with a recently updated comprehensive report on the condition of the Regional Fire Schools. Additionally, legislators discussed some of the bills that have successfully JFed out of committee (voted Joint Favorable) at this point in the session. Greg Allard of the OEMS Advisory Board provided an update on JFed legislation from the EMS perspective. Also, Ken Mitchell of the Valley Chiefs Fire Training School briefly addressed legislators on the topic of bonding for his Regional Fire School.

If you did not attend the caucus meeting, I highly recommend watching the entire clip that was recorded on the Connecticut Network (CT-N) and is available on the following link:

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=16213>

We are still waiting for the Legislative Commissioner's Office (LCO) to release the latest language on S.B. 164 "The PTSD Bill". As I mentioned in last week's update, as soon as that language is available to the public, we expect that there will be a news conference. At that point, we will need members of the Fire Service to attend the news conference demonstrating Fire Service support for the legislation when key legislators and officials decide to reveal the next version of this bill. Again, please be prepared that there may only be very short notice for this news conference. I will post a special CSFA Legislative Update on the listserv as soon as I have details of where and when this new conference will occur.

There is good news for **H.B. 7394** AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A FIRST RESPONDER AND A PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-07394-R00-HB.PDF>). The bill was voted Joint Favorable this week and was successfully passed out of the Judiciary Committee.

I have attached an updated JF 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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