



June 6th, 2019

Everyone,

For those who missed the very good news last week, **S.B. 164**, “The PTSD Bill” passed both the House and the Senate unanimously late last week. This week, Governor Lamont signed the bill and it became law, **Public Act 19-17**:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/ACT/pa/pdf/2019PA-00017-R00SB-00164-PA.pdf>

There were a few other bills that we’ve been tracking that also passed both houses before the session ended. These bills included:

H.B. 5125 - AN ACT INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN FIRST RESPONDERS. To increase the property tax abatement for certain first responders from one thousand dollars to one thousand five hundred dollars.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-05125-R000079-FC.PDF>)

H.B. 5455 - AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFIED FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS. To allow the state forest fire warden to supplement existing staff resources with individuals who meet certain federal forest fire fighter training and qualification requirements.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-05455-R000391-FC.PDF>)

H.B. 5575 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS FOR FIRE STARTING BEHAVIOR TREATMENT. To permit the court to suspend a delinquency proceeding for certain fire starting offenses and order a child to participate in a fire starting behavior treatment program.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-05575-R000051-FC.PDF>)

H.B. 6146 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF CERTIFICATION COURSES IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES IN THE USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF FIRST AID. To expand certification courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation for lifeguards and education and training courses in the use of automatic external defibrillators and the administration of first aid.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-06146-R000988-FC.PDF>)

Passed with the following amendment:

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/amd/H/pdf/2019HB-06146-R00HA-AMD.pdf>)

H.B. 7229 - AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN RENTAL UNITS. To modify existing requirements for landlords to provide notice of fire suppression systems to tenants.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-07229-R000817-FC.PDF>)

Passed with the following amendment:

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/amd/H/pdf/2019HB-07229-R00HA-AMD.pdf>)

H.B. 7394 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A FIRST RESPONDER AND A PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER. To ensure the confidentiality of certain communications that take place between a first responder and a peer support team member.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019HB-07229-R000817-FC.PDF>)

Passed with the following amendment:

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/amd/H/pdf/2019HB-07394-R00HA-AMD.pdf>)

S.B. 380 - AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS TRAINING AND SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR POLICE OFFICERS. To promote mental health and wellness training and suicide prevention for police officers in the state.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019SB-00380-R000590-FC.PDF>)

Passed with the following amendment:

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/amd/S/pdf/2019SB-00380-R00SA-AMD.pdf>)

S.B. 556 - AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN RETIRED PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES. To permit any municipality, by a two-thirds vote of its legislative body, to annually pay a retired public safety employee who suffered serious and permanent bodily injury in the line of duty and who retired as a result thereof, up to the age of sixty-five, the difference between such employee's disability pay and such employee's regular rate of pay prior to retirement.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019SB-00556-R000717-FC.PDF>)

Passed with the following amendment:

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/amd/S/pdf/2019SB-00556-R00SA-AMD.pdf>)

S.B. 795 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS. To protect physicians and other health care professionals who use automated external defibrillators in the scope of their practice or employment against civil liability when the automatic external defibrillator malfunctions.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019SB-00795-R000008-FC.PDF>)

Passed with the following amendment:

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/amd/S/pdf/2019SB-00795-R00SA-AMD.pdf>)

S.B. 1082 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS. To require the Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications to develop additional incentives for the regionalization of public safety answering points and make recommendations to the General Assembly for how to remove barriers to the consolidation of such answering points.

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019SB-01082-R000736-FC.PDF>)

Passed with the following amendment:

(<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/amd/S/pdf/2019SB-01082-R00SA-AMD.pdf>)

The co-chairs of the Fire/EMS Caucus tell me that they will not be able to schedule a meeting during the coming weeks. I will report in an update on the listserv when the next caucus meeting will be held during the fall.

Also, in addition to the Appropriations Committee once again providing level funding to the operating budgets of our Regional Fire Schools, **H.B. 7424** also provided the following funding for the Middlesex project:

“Sec. 39. (Effective July 1, 2019) The amount appropriated in section 1 of this act to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, shall be made available in said fiscal year for the following grants: \$20,000 for a grant-in-aid to the town of Sherman for an air quality study; and \$20,000

for a grant-in-aid to the Middlesex County Fire School in Middletown for Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments.”

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/TOB/h/pdf/2019HB-07424-R00-HB.PDF>

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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