

TO: CT State Firefighters Association, in coordination with the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations of Connecticut re: 2023 Year-end Final Legislative Report.

Legislation of note to the Fire Services in Connecticut:

*** HB 6941 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET.**

- § 53 — AMBULANCE RATES

Requires the DPH commissioner to increase the maximum allowable rates by 10% in FY 24 for licensed and certified ambulance services, invalid coaches, and paramedic intercept services

§§ 162-165 — FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF BENEFITS

Generally requires that firefighters who have certain cancers and meet other specified criteria receive workers' compensation-like benefits and disability retirement benefits that are paid by a municipality and then reimbursed from a state account; creates the Firefighter Cancer Relief Fund Advisory Committee to annually evaluate the account; and requires the treasurer to annually report on the status of the account and the existing Firefighters Cancer Relief Program

- §41(b)10 – PFAS Remediation Grants

Provides DESPP grants (\$3,000,000 in total) to municipalities for remove PFAS from fire apparatus

- §41(b)36 – Fire Services Study Funding

Provides DESPP funding (\$250,000) to study issues facing fire services in the state

- Increases to requested levels, funding for Fire Schools

-

Fire Training School - Willimantic	242,176	242,176
Fire Training School - Torrington	172,267	172,267
Fire Training School - New Haven	108,364	108,364
Fire Training School - Derby	50,639	50,639
Fire Training School - Wolcott	171,162	171,162
Fire Training School - Fairfield	127,501	127,501
Fire Training School - Hartford	176,836	176,836
Fire Training School - Middletown	70,970	70,970
Fire Training School - Stamford	75,541	75,541
Volunteer Firefighter Training	140,000	140,000

*** HB 6838 An Act Establishing A Division Of Fire Services Administration Within The Department Of Emergency Services And Public Protection, Revising The Powers And Duties Of The Commission On Fire Prevention And Control And Requiring A Study Of The Fire Service In The State.**

- This bill died by referral, but the provisions related to the study of the fire service of it were included in the aforementioned budgetary legislation.

*** HB 6841 An Act Concerning Firefighter Recruitment And Retention.**

- This bill was introduced by the CSFA with help from Rep. Boyd and Public Safety Committee, provisions of the bill were seen as a work in progress, and it was referred from the floor to the Appropriations committee where it died from inaction, but talks with necessary parties involved in the legislation will continue into the next year.

*** HB 5250 (HB 6070 Similar) An Act Establishing A Grant Program To Reimburse Municipalities For Costs Related To Removal Of PFAS From Fire Apparatus.**

- this bill and its provisions were testified on in front of the Appropriations committee, the Committee included the requested ballpark estimate of 3mil\$ to remediate apparatus in the State Budget.

*** SB 937 An Act Providing Workers' Compensation Benefits For Certain Cancers In Firefighters.**

- this bill was negotiated with the UPFFA and stakeholders.

*** SB 999 An Act Increasing The Uniform Assessment Rate For Property Tax.**

- this bill was turned into a study but would have the potential to affect Fire Districts.

HB 5359 An Act Concerning Fire Marshals Carrying Pistols Or Revolvers While Performing Their Duties.

- This bill died in Committee through inaction.

HB 5501 An Act Concerning Alternative Physical Ability Testing Requirements For Female Candidates For Firefighter Positions.

- This bill died in Committee through inaction.

HB 6846

An Act Concerning A Study Of The Effectiveness Of The Implementation Of Crisis Response Drills In Public Schools And Their Effect On Children's Mental Health

- This bill was signed by the Governor, the bill as amended eliminates provisions that would have *reduced* the number of required fire drills to two per school year, instead requiring seven per year, as negotiated with CFMA.

SB 100 An Act Establishing An Account In The General Fund To Provide Grants To Towns That Need PFAS Testing And Remediation.

- This bill was signed by the Governor

HB 5227 (HB 5166 Similar, HB 5419 Similar)

An Act Establishing A Personal Income Tax Deduction For Stipends Paid To Volunteer Firefighters And Volunteer Ambulance Members.

- This bill did not pass out of Committee and thus died from inaction, along with similar legislation.

HB 5493 An Act Concerning Payments To Volunteer Fire Companies For Responding To Calls In State Parks.

- This bill did not pass out of Committee and thus died from inaction, along with similar legislation.

*** denotes priority**



**POWERS
GRIFFIN
&
HILL**