

PA13-200

HB6454

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|---------------|----------------------|-----------|
| House | 5591-5599 | 9 |
| Public Safety | 651-655, 737-749 | 18 |
| Senate | 4992-4999, 5043-5044 | 10 |
| | | 37 |

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 17
5545 – 5881**

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young adults in Connecticut are currently living in community households and are receiving support from Vista.

So I ask my -- my fellow members here to welcome my constituents and thank them for their fine work for Vista.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Welcome to both of you, Tod and Erin. Keep up the good work.

REP. KOKORUDA (101st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Are there any further announcements or introductions? Are there any further announcements or introductions?

If not, we will return to the Call of the Calendar.

And will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 90?

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, on Page 39, House Calendar 90, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on

HB 6454

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APPROPRIATIONS, House Bill 6454, AN ACT CONCERNING
FIRE STATION WORK ZONES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Elaine O'Brien.

You have the floor, madam.

REP. O'BRIEN (61st):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's
favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Representative O'Brien.

REP. O'BRIEN (61st):

Ms. -- Madam Speaker, this bill creates a new
work zone designation for fire stations. By creating
that designation, it allows signage to be placed
beginning of the work zone and ending of the work
zone.

It also allows for a doubling of the fines for
distracted driving or speeding or reckless driving.
It is -- and the purpose of this to enhance the safety
of firefighters as they come to and from the station.

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Madam Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment, LCO 7230. And I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 7230, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO 7230, as introduced by Representative O'Brien, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection? Objection?

Seeing none, Representative O'Brien.

REP. O'BRIEN (61st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Currently, there are 315 fire stations in the State of Connecticut and if the Department of Transportation were to place signage of -- at each of those 315 stations, there was a fiscal note attached of \$189,000.

This amendment creates enabling legislation so it allows the municipalities at their option to put the

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signage out. So it will be a municipal option, rather than a State mandate.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further?

REP. O'BRIEN (61st):

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Oh yes. The question is on adoption.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us?

Representative Miner, on the amendment.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just one question if I might, through you please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

So as the amendment is drafted then, would the obligation to pay for the sign if the municipality

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chose to have it installed fall to the Department of
Transportation or to the municipality?

Through you, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative O'Brien.

REP. O'BRIEN (61st):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

The obligation would be on the municipality. It
would be a municipal option to put out that sign.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I thank the gentle lady for her answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment
before us? Care to remark further on the House
Amendment Schedule "A".

If not, let me try your minds. All those in
favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

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All those opposed, nay.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Cafero, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Just to say, nice job, Madam Speaker.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Coming from you, our gracious Minority Leader, thank you very much.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment -- the bill as amended? Excuse me.

Representative Janice Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

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Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of the bill before us. This increases the firefighters -- motorist's attention to firefighters when they're moving into their own fire homes -- houses. We heard from various fire departments of various hazardous activity that has occurred when they've been trying to back their equipment into their firehouses.

We've heard of individuals driving up on the grass, totally disregarding a firefighter who may be directing traffic in the road or if the lights were flashing and they had total disregard to them. So this bill before us will discourage motorists from their failure to pay attention to them, by increasing the fines.

And I strongly urge the support of my colleagues for this bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on

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the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will Members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If your vote has been properly cast, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally, please.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6454, as Amended by House "A".

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Total Number Voting | 144 |
| Necessary for Passage | 73 |
| Those voting Yea | 144 |
| Those voting Nay | 0 |
| Absent and not voting | 6 |

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

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The bill, as amended, passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 441?

THE CLERK:

On Page 19, Calendar 441, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, Substitute Senate Bill 692, AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS OR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY BY MUNICIPALITIES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, in concurrence with the Senate.

Will you remark, Representative Rojas?

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The bill increase from 7,500 to 25,000 the maximum value of contracts or purchases that a

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And if there is no objection, I would ask that this be added to the consent calendar, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney?

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the Clerk would call next calendar page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill 6454; to be followed by calendar page 18, Calendar 685, House Bill 6009; and then calendar page 24, Calendar 566, House Bill 6375.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill Number 6454, AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE STATION WORK ZONES, favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety and Security.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report, sir, and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House as amended by House "A," sir.

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On acceptance and passage in concurrence, will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, sir.

This bill doubles the fines for speeding or committing certain traffic violations in a conspicuously designated fire station work zone, in which a uniformed firefighter is directing traffic.

It allows the municipality, in this instance, to designate such zone by a posting the appropriate signs. It also removes the fiscal note so that the towns may choose to do this, as opposed to requiring the Department of Transportation.

I move passage, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I also rise to support this bill. I thank Senator Hartley for bringing it out and actually drafting it in the way it's been drafted. I think there are a number of ways to approach the problems that have been presented for which this legislation is seeking to solve.

And some of them could be quite cumbersome, quite onerous on the municipalities and also on drivers. But I think probably each of us in the circle, if we haven't, we probably will in the near future, hear about the challenges a number of firefighters have in pulling trucks out, backing tracks in and how at times those that are in the highways surrounding or in front of those firehouses haven't always been as respectable or as careful of the situation as possible. And if not causing injury, at least causing the fear of

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injury.

So if I may, through you, Mr. President, I do have a question for the proponent of the bill?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I can think of the many potential situations which could have given rise to this. I am wondering, though, through you, Mr. President, if Senator Hartley could share with us what was the genesis for the legislation before us.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Welch, this came to us from the firefighters association. And the truth is, Senator Welch, it appears that in multiple municipalities there had been the feeling that certain circumstances were that uniformed firefighters were in harm's way when they were out there having to direct their equipment and the firetrucks.

So it was in more than one instance. And it is a matter of safety for those who are traveling on the roads, but also for those who represent us and are first responders.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

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SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I think that's pretty consistent with my experience. I can think of a particular firehouse in Bristol, which is not too far from where I live, where this isn't really a problem because there is plenty of room between the garage and the road. And they've got more mobility and actually less machinery.

But then I can think of a station right in downtown Bristol which has a whole set of unique circumstances. And so what I think I appreciate most about this bill is that it is written in such a way that the municipality can deal with each of those circumstances differently rather than one-size-fits-all, which I think unfortunately we do too much in this building.

So thank you, Senator Hartley, for bringing this to our attention. Thank you for drafting it in the way that you did, which doesn't make it an unfunded mandate and allows flexibility with respect to implementation. It's a good legislation and I support it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Actually I do support the bill as well and I'll talk about that in a minute, but I do have a question for Senator Hartley.

Because Senator Hartley, House amendment "A" allows municipalities rather than requires DOT to designate fire station work zones, yet Senator Welch just mentioned that it is not a one-size-fits-all type of

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airbrush, but allowing municipalities to do what suits them a little bit differently or better.

My concern would be the opposite. I would want to make sure that, yes, we're allowing the municipalities to do this rather than mandate them, but want to make sure that they are consistent in the procedures. So I know in the underlying bill it talks about, fire station work ahead, end fire station work. Is that going to be the standard? Is it going to -- are we going to have the same consistency in the signage if these towns choose to take advantage of this legislation?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Kane.

For a moment I thought Senator Kane was proposing a mandate.

SENATOR KANE:

No. No. No.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Senator Kane, through you Mr. President.

This is the standard signage which is used and so -- and I think we're all very accustomed to it because it parallels what is used by the Department of Transportation. It's a very succinct message and I think it conveys in a very succinct way the message that we are doing. So there is uniformity in how we express this work zone.

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Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

No, Senator Hartley, mandate is a four-letter word in my vocabulary and I do not like to utter that word.

My question was in regards to the consistency of how each municipality addresses this issue. So, A, I do appreciate the mandate being taken out of the legislation and allowing such municipality to take advantage of it, if they choose. I just wanted to make sure that if they do choose it -- there are 169 municipalities in the state of Connecticut -- there is some uniformity so we've given them some direction, you know, so that they're consistent in that way.

I do rise in support of this measure, Mr. President. I received a phone call from my chief, fire chief in Watertown who called me directly about this and our firehouse is right on Main Street. It is a heavily traveled road, especially on Saturday mornings and other times during the day. We have a great number of business, retail shops. We have schools. You know, you name it.

We have a great deal of activity right on that than main drag, on that main strip. So there are times -- and by firefighters by the way are volunteers. Every one of them, you know, signs up for that job, and enjoy it and we respect and appreciate the work that they do. But as they come to work they obviously will bring trucks in and out of that facility and it is very difficult to navigate on Main Street. We have a traffic light right -- maybe less than 50 yards, maybe a hundred yards away from the fire station. So it is in an intersection that is extremely busy.

So I do believe that this is good legislation. I do believe that we need to protect the firefighters, each and every one of them, whether paid or volunteer, but

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certainly those who choose to volunteer for our communities. And I do want to thank my fire chief for giving me a call on this legislation. I want to thank Senator Hartley for proposing it and removing the mandate down in the House.

But thank you very much, Mr. President. I will be in support of this legislation and I do look forward to its passage I believe the safety of our firefighters is second to none.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise in strong support of the bill. As a former firefighter and volunteer fire chief for ten years in my community, and I also have a firehouse which is actually adjacent to a roadway. This bill goes to double the fines of already established statutes in our laws ranging from traveling unreasonably fast, to speeding, to reckless driving, to DWI. It goes to operating with a hands-free -- or non-hands-free cellular device.

As previous speakers had noted, these folks put their lives on the line every time they roll out on a call and there's a lot of activity at the firehouse when a truck returns from a call. You can imagine if it's an active fire where they had to take the hose off for whatever reason, that you've got firefighters disembarking from the truck.

If they're rolling out the lines, walking the lines out, they're rolling them out to dry. There's a lot of activity. When people see that they want say, well, what's going on at the firehouse. They're not paying attention. You might have people walking around.

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And to do the types of violations that I stated earlier in my remarks while driving through there, that area, is very egregious and I want to thank Senator Hartley and the Public Safety Committee for bringing this bill out. This will help every volunteer and professional fire service to know that if somebody acts in an egregious way by committing violations of our statutes in that protected zone around their firehouse, it's going to come out of their wallet and they're going to pay for it, and righteously they should. So I'd ask and urge the chamber's adoption of the bill before us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

If there's no objection, Mr. President, I would ask that this be put on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, have another item to move to the consent calendar, calendar page 18, Calendar 685, House Bill 6009, move to place that item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

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Page 3, Calendar 422, Senate Bill 978; on page 4, Calendar 475, Senate Bill 1052; on page 8, Calendar 567, House Bill 6387; Calendar 568, House Bill 6445; and Calendar 580, House Bill 6623.

On page 9, Calendar 583, House Bill 5149; and Calendar 590, House Bill 6680; page 10, Calendar 607, House Bill 6688; and calendar 608, House Bill 6384.

Page 11, Calendar 612, House Bill 6448; and Calendar 621, House Bill 6488. On page 12, Calendar 634, House Bill 6403; and Calendar 636, House Bill 6394; page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill 6454; and page 14, Calendar 652, House Bill 6702.

On page 16, Calendar 674, House Bill 6441; page 17, Calendar 677, House Bill 6644; on page 18, Calendar 685, House Bill 6009; and on page 23, Calendar 380 Senate Bill 1054; page 24, Calendar 452, Senate Bill 1142; and Calendar 566, House Bill 6375.

Page 25, Calendar 646, House Bill 5844; and on page 26, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 1019.

THE CHAIR:

At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on a first consent calendar?

The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators, please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call on the first consent calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted? All members have voted. The machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally?

THE CLERK:

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The first consent calendar.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Total Number Voting | 35 |
| Necessary for Adoption | 18 |
| Those voting Yea | 35 |
| Those voting Nay | 0 |
| Those absent and not voting | 1 |

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of all items acted on thus far today requiring additional action in that chamber.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also, Madam President, on an item previously placed on the foot of the Calendar, would now seek to remove that item and just mark it PR, and that is an item calendar page 16, Calendar 672, House Bill 5480, AN ACT PROHIBITING TAMPERING WITH HYDRANTS. Would just move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it PR.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 2
378 - 749**

2013

COMMITTEE

speakers, first one being Chief Charles Flynn from Suffield. Good afternoon Chief.

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: Good afternoon Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety Committee. I'm here on behalf of the Connecticut Fire Chief's both career and Fire Chiefs and also the chair of the legislative committee for the Connecticut Fire -- Career Fire Chiefs in support of Bill 6454, which would make a work zone in front of every fire house within the state. As you drive through the state, most fire houses are built on the main drag -- main streets of our towns and cities and we have to back in off of these roads into older stations. We have gotten smarter as we built new fire houses we used the back of the roads or made drive throughs. But at -- a lot of times we're putting our fire fighters at risk as the back the apparatus back into the fire house after a burning -- after returning from a structure or car accident. Currently Suffield -- we have four stations. Three of them we back in off the roads. I have only been chief for a short period of time, six months but I've had two near misses. One driver swerved around the truck, hit a curb and blew out a tire. A second drove around the truck across the neighbor's lawn. Previously I served as the chief in the town of Wethersfield and during my ten year I was made aware of a line of duty death of a fire fighter while going to a drill on a Monday evening some time ago. Each year a number of fire fighters are killed in the line of duty not only from smoke a speciation and heart attacks but also from motor vehicle accidents and from being stuck by vehicles. I submitted a number of letters for -- in support of other chiefs of departments including Chief Bill Lewis of the town of Windsor who states in his letter to the fact

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of a fire fighter being warned by a local police officer for interfering with the flow of traffic while backing fire apparatus into the fire house and that truck being stuck. We of the fire service continue to train and develop procedures to protect ourselves while performing our duties. This law with proper signs and public education will assist our fire fighters to return home safely. I have submitted a number of letter in support of House Bill 6454 and I thank you for this opportunity to bring this to your attention today.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Congratulations on your recent appointment

and thank you for appearing here before us. It seems like a common sense thing I I can't imagine why haven't done it before.

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: Thanks.

Other questions from committee members? Yes.
Representative Rovero.

ROVERO: What -- what do you consider a work zone?

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: Excuse me, Representative?

REP. ROVERO: It says a work zone. You want to be
--

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: A work zone. Right now there is current legislation like if there's utility crews working along the road where it doubles, the fines this would look to give us the authority to do that if somebody was to disobey the fire apparatus backing into the building. Most fire houses across the state have signage now that warns that there is a fire station there. My main station one --

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route 168 in Suffield has a traffic control signal and we're still having avoided that traffic control single.

REP. ROVERO: Okay, I agree with you 100 percent and I come from a town that has volunteer -- fire department has just what you're talking about --

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: Thanks.

REP. ROVERO: But I really don't, maybe I can't grapple with the fact that -- what good is doubling the fines going to do? If you've got that idiot out there, he's not looking at a fine. You know what I'm saying? And you know there's got to be another way than saying: if you go through our zone I'm going to double your fine because most of those people -- I hate to say it but -- their mind's some other place and --

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: (inaudible)

REP. ROVERO: -- I liked this in the beginning but there's got to be something stronger than doubling the fines. I'm not sure just what it could be but to get you to back in, I know what -- just what you're saying. You live in a small town and we see this all the time but gosh, I don't know -- doubling the fine could you -- I -- you go through work zones and you still see these people doing 65 and there's got to be someone there to arrest this person so he does pay a double the fine so --

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: That's correct.

REP. ROVERO: -- and if there was a police officer around you'd probably have him stopping traffic while you backed in so I'm not really sure that doubling the fine is going to do what you want it

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to do. It's a good start and I give you credit for that but I think we got to get a little stronger besides the fine but thank you very much for your time.

CHIEF CHARLES FLYNN: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you Representative Rovero. Further comments? Representative Esposito? No? Yes? You have a question?

REP. ESPOSITO: In the bill it says that the DOT shall post a sign at the beginning of the Fire Station Work Zone designating a work zone ahead and then at the end of it, I mean, I'm not trying to knit pick but that's putting extra work for the DOT and plus, how do you put signs between such a confined area to show the starting, I mean is it going to be right at the fire station or would it be a block before or a block after? Being a former fire commissioner I understand some of the concerns that you have but I -- I think our -- our careers myself and Representative Dargan we always made sure the men were out there directing traffic but I understand what you're saying Chief that a lot of times the motoring public ignores your warning to stop or slow down but I think you have to find a -- a compromise here where putting a sign out at the fire station isn't going to necessarily stop them from going around and to put a sign after letting them know -- if you're just doubling up on the DOT's work, doubling up on cost which (inaudible) complaining it's going to be a cost factor, whose going to bury the cost?

REP. ESPOSITO: Absolutely.

I think it's worth looking at and I think you should work on it further to try and put a

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workable solution that would help fire departments where they have had trouble with people driving around them. Thank you Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you sir. Further comments? If not, thanks very much Chief for being with us this morning. We'd like to invite Fire Marshal Kowalski -- and good morning to you Kevin, it's all yours.

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Good afternoon. If it -- If it's all right with the committee, I invited John Yacovino, who is the president of the Connecticut Fire Marshal Association also to join.

SENATOR HARTLEY: And so John we just officially need your name and --

JOHN YACOVINO: John Yacovino.

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- and you are from again?

JOHN YACOVINO: I'm sorry, city of Meriden.

SENATOR HARTLEY: That's --

JOHN YACOVINO: President of Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association

SENATOR HARTLEY: Okay thank you, and also joining us?

KEITH FLOOD: Keith flood, Fire Marshal (inaudible) to fire department of (inaudible).

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you for being with us. You may proceed.

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Thank you. Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, Members of the Public Safety Sub Committee, My name is Kevin Kowalski, I am the Fire Marshal of the Town of

HB6425

SB929

Town of Suffield

Fire Department
Office of the Chief

February 25, 2013

Connecticut General Assembly
Public Safety and Security Committee
Re: Raised HB # 6454

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Chief of the Suffield Fire Department and Chairman of the CT Career Fire Chiefs Legislative Committee, I am writing in support of HB #6454, which would designate the area in front of fire stations as a work zone.

Although our department has standard operating policies in place dealing with backing procedures, there are times when the firefighters are exposed to distracted drivers while performing their duties.

Currently Suffield has four stations throughout our community and three of them require the apparatus to be backed into the station from the roadway. Station 1, located on Route 168 in the center of town currently has traffic control signals. However, in my short tenure as Chief, I have witnessed two near misses involving drivers who have disregarded the traffic control signal and the big red truck maneuvering into the fire station. One of the vehicles struck the granite curbing and blew out a tire. The second swerved around the backing fire apparatus as if they were an inconvenience and drove across the adjoining lawn.

Previously serving as the Chief and longtime member of the Wethersfield Fire Department, I was made aware of a line of duty death of Firefighter Michael Mele while he was reporting to Station 2 for department training.

Each year according to recent statistics of the US Fire Administration, a number of firefighters are injured and or killed while backing fire apparatus. There have also been deaths or injuries while providing emergency services roadside; directing traffic and fire apparatus operations. This is the third leading cause of firefighter's death

We in the fire service continue to train and develop procedures to protect ourselves while performing our duties. This law, with proper signage and public education will assist our firefighters to return home safely

Your Support is greatly appreciated on HB3 6454.

Respectfully

Charles M. Flynn
Chief of Department
73 Mountain Road
Suffield, CT 06078

Town of Wethersfield
505 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY
WETHERSFIELD CONNECTICUT 06109



**OFFICE OF THE
FIRE CHIEF**

Tel: (860) 721-2830

February 26, 2013

CT General Assembly
Public Safety and Security Committee
Re Raised HB Bill #6454

To Whom It May Concern.

As Chief of the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department, I am writing to support H B. #6454, which would designate the road in front of fire stations as a work zone. Only one of our three fire stations has safety devices that signal oncoming traffic when apparatus are exiting or backing into a fire station from the road. Though our department has a backing policy that addresses the safety of the firefighters, there are many times when our firefighters are still vulnerable when assisting the backing of apparatus from the roadway into the station.

Your support is greatly appreciated

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Bailey
Chief
Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department
505 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109
(860) 721-2830



University of Connecticut
Division of Public Safety

Fire Department

John I. Mancini
Fire Chief

February 25, 2013

CT General Assembly
Public Safety and Security Committee
Re: Raised HB Bill #6454

To Whom It May Concern:

As Chief of the University of Connecticut Fire Department, I am writing to support H.B. #6454, which would designate the road in front of fire stations as a work zone. Our fire station does not have safety devices that signal oncoming traffic when apparatus are exiting or backing into a fire station from the road. Though our department has a backing policy that addresses the safety of the firefighters, there are many times when our firefighters are still vulnerable when assisting the backing of apparatus from the roadway into the station.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief John Mancini
University of Connecticut Fire Department
126 North Eagleville Road,
Storrs, CT 06269



PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 28, 2013

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 6454 .. AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE STATION WORK ZONES

This proposal would allow a section of road in front of a fire station to be designated as a work zone while a uniformed firefighter is directing traffic. The section of road would be designated by the Department of Transportation signage, and would allow additional fines to be imposed on motor vehicle operators that violate the work zone speed and traffic direction.

Many fire stations are located along busy roads. As a result, firefighters' safety is often vulnerable when fire apparatus backs into their stations, and passing vehicles do not properly yield. HB 6454 would enhance firefighter protection as they direct traffic while fire apparatus properly returns to local stations.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report HB 6454**.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Associate of CCM
via email mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 500-7556.



CT FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION

Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association



CT FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2013

CT General Assembly
Public Safety and Security Committee
Re: Raised HB Bill# 6454

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the CT Fire Chief's Association, I am writing to support H.B. #6454, which would designate the road in front of fire stations as work zones. Many fire departments do not have safety devices that signal oncoming traffic when apparatus are exiting or backing into a fire station from the road. Though many departments do have backing policies that address the safety of the firefighters, there are many times when firefighters are still vulnerable when assisting the backing of apparatus from the roadway into the station. With the proper signage and public education, this bill will assist with firefighter safety as well as penalizing drivers who do not use due caution when driving by a fire station.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



John Mancini
President
CT Fire Chief's Association

Cromwell Fire Department

P.O. Box 269
Cromwell, CT 06416

<http://www.cromwellfd.com>



Telephone: (860) 635-6155

Fax: (860) 632-1599

Stephen Pendl, Fire Chief

February 27, 2013

Let it be known that the Cromwell Fire Department supports Bill No. 6454 for the General Assembly: An Act concerning Fire Station Work Zones.

The public street in front of any firehouse would be designated as a Fire Station Work Zone and therefore be subject to the same traffic precautions as construction or utility work zones.

Passing of this bill would increase firefighter safety by reducing firefighter exposure to moving traffic. Upon returning to the fire station, our trucks have to stop in front of two of our three stations and back up into our station, which requires our firefighter personnel to stop any oncoming traffic. This makes our firefighters vulnerable to be hit by passing traffic who do not comply. Since these firefighters are WORKING, we ask that the street area in front of each fire station be designated as a FIRE STATION WORK ZONE. We recognize that these areas will need to be marked as a work zone by designation with a different or additional traffic sign other than just the existing fire station traffic sign.

The Cromwell Fire Department has had an incident where a passing vehicle did not comply with a firefighter, in full turnout gear, directing traffic for a fire truck backing into our Court St. station, and the firefighter was grazed by the vehicle. Luckily he was uninjured, albeit shaken up.

Stephen Pendl

Stephen Pendl
Chief of Department



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 28, 2013

Senator Joan Hartley, Co-Chair Public Safety Committee
 Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety Committee
 Senator Tony Guglielmo, Ranking Member Public Safety Committee
 Representative Jan Giegler, Ranking Member Public Safety Committee

Members of the Public Safety & Security Committee,

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. I would like to comment on **Raised House Bill # 6454, AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE STATION WORK ZONES**

THE CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF THIS PROPOSAL.

As traffic patterns increase it is becoming increasingly unsafe for firefighters as they respond to emergency incidents with their apparatus and return to their fire stations. For a quick response many fire stations are situated on main roads within their communities. As a result these streets have become increasingly congested. Many fire stations require the responding firefighters to stop oncoming traffic as their apparatus leaves and returns to that station. Most times this requires that the firefighters must stand out in the roadways. This activity becomes dangerous to the firefighters as the motoring public tends to disregard their directions. It is anticipated that by designating these areas in front of the fire stations as WORK ZONES, the penalties that are associated with violating these zones will deter aggressive drivers from endangering the lives of these firefighters.

It is anticipated that the fire station work zone would refer to both sides of the street area of a two-way street between the property lines of the fire station property. In the case of a street divided by an island, the work zone area will only be that portion of the street area directly in front of the fire station. Most fire station areas are already marked with fire station traffic signage. Any required work zone signage can be posted at those same sign posts. Fire station work zones shall only be effective if uniformed firefighters are visible directing traffic within the work zone area. Firefighters must be clothed in firefighter protective gear or dress uniform that clearly identifies that individual as a firefighter

Please Help Protect The Safety Of Connecticut's Firefighters By Supporting This Legislation.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
 Connecticut State Firefighters Association

HB64542013

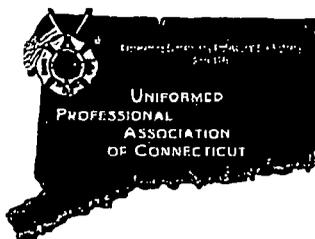
UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

30 Sherman Street, West Hartford, CT 06110

Office (860) 953-3200 Office Fax (860) 953-3334

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS
 Peter S. Carozza, Jr., *President*
 Louis P. DeMier, *Secretary*
 Robert P. Anthony, *Treasurer*



PAUL J. RAPANAULT
 DIRECTOR
 Legislative/Political Affairs

February 28, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Paul Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislation/Political Affairs of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut. The UPFFA represents 4,000 career fire fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers in nearly 60 municipal and state local unions.

I am here today to support one bill before you.

H.B. No. 6454 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE STATION WORK ZONES. This bill would expand the definition of a 'Work Zone' to include "while a uniformed firefighter is directing traffic within a fire station work zone designated in a conspicuous manner by the Department of Transportation". This offers fire fighters protection while operating in a non-emergency capacity around fire stations and alerts the general public to the nature of the area in which they are traveling. We believe this is helpful to fire fighters and the general public as well. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Paul J Rapanault
 DIRECTOR
 Legislative/Political Affairs

**CITY OF DANBURY****FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810****Geoffrey R. Herald, CFO
Danbury Fire Department****Phone 203-796-1550
Fax 203-796-1552**

February 27, 2013

Public Safety and Security Committee
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill No. 6454

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

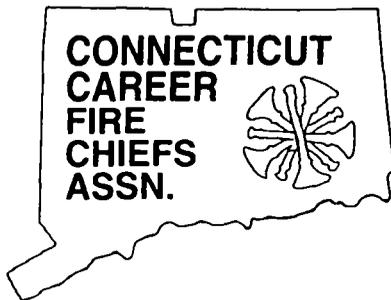
As Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, I am charged with ensuring the safety of the members of the department. In this regard, I fully support this Raised Bill No. 6454, an Act concerning fire station work zones and urge you to support, pass and enact this bill.

All too often, privately operated vehicles create safety concerns where firefighters are working or directing traffic around our stations. The passage of this bill will enable safer conditions for Connecticut firefighters by designating work zones for vehicle traffic and increase markings and public awareness. The number of times we have had to respond to hazardous roadway issues in Danbury gives evidence to the risks inherent in these situations. In Danbury we have frequently experienced hazardous roadway situations that endanger the welfare of our firefighters while returning to our stations. Our efforts to address this have included road markings, use of warning lights and firefighters directing traffic. Even with these actions vehicular traffic often bypasses or ignores these efforts by driving past firefighters holding traffic, crossing onto the lawns surrounding the station or entering into the path of the backing apparatus.

Please help protect and improve and the safety of working firefighters on roadways in the State of Connecticut by supporting and enacting this bill.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Herald
Chief Fire Officer



February 27, 2013

Public Safety and Security Committee
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

President:

Chief Geoffrey Herald
Danbury Fire Department
19 New Street
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Chief Paul Milositz
Wilton Fire Department
236 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897
203 834 6246
paul.milositz@wiltonct.org

Re: Raised Bill No. 6454

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

As President of the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association, I fully support this Raised Bill No. 6454, an Act concerning fire station work zones. This will increase the safety of firefighters and educate the public as to the risks of fire apparatus operations around fire stations.

All too often, privately operated vehicles create safety concerns where firefighters are working or directing traffic so as to allow fire apparatus to back in to garages or station facilities. The passage of this bill will create safer conditions for Connecticut firefighters by designating work zones in the vicinity of fire stations. Across the state firefighters frequently experienced hazardous roadway situations that endanger the welfare of our firefighters while returning to our stations. Our efforts to address this have included road markings, use of warning lights and firefighters directing traffic. Even with these actions road traffic often bypasses or ignores these efforts by driving past firefighters directing traffic, crossing onto the lawns and driveways so as to not be impeded and in some cases actually driving into the driveway behind backing fire trucks.

Please help improve and protect the safety of working firefighters in the State of Connecticut by supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Herald
President

To whom it may concern,

February 27, 2013

I am in support of house bill 6454, An act concerning fire station work zones.

I am the Chief of the Town of Windsor Volunteer Fire Department and would like to advise you of a problem that I had around 2008. My department was at a scene of a kitchen fire and after suppression was complete, an aerial piece of apparatus had to back onto Rt. 159, a state road in order to return to its station. A Lieutenant in full firefighting protective gear walked onto Rt. 159 to stop traffic so that the aerial operator could safely back onto Rt. 159. The Lieutenant held up his hands and stopped an on coming passenger van and then motioned to the aerial operator to back onto Rt. 159. When the Lieutenant did this the van's operator decided to start up and swerve around the Lieutenant in an attempt to "beat" the aerial piece into the intersection. The van did not make it and crashed into the bucket portion of the aerial piece.

Windsor Police began an investigation and determined that firefighters cannot direct traffic unless they are fire/police officers. My aerial operator received an oral warning for unsafe backing and was told that he caused the accident. Although I find this absurd and believe several existing laws give firefighters the right to direct traffic at emergency scenes, I feel that the Attorney General should make that call.

This is the reason why House Bill 6454 should be passed as it will alleviate some confusion to firefighters directing traffic and will only increase the safety of all firefighters.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Chief William Lewis
Town of Windsor Volunteer Fire Department
275 Broad Street
Windsor, CT



February 26, 2013

Public Safety & Security Committee
Room 3600
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: H.B. #6454

The Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association is in full support of H.B. #6454 regarding the creation of a designated work zone on a street in front of a fire station. The approval of this bill would increase firefighter safety within the State of Connecticut.

Respectfully,

John P. Yacovino

President
Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association