

PA13-256

SB0929

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VETO
SESSION**

**VOL.56
PART 31
10451 - 10795**

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Are there any other announcements?

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

Mr. Clerk, would you be so kind as so call
Calendar 563.

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Calendar Number 563, on Page 41, Favorable Report
of the joint standing Committee on Judiciary,
Substitute Senate Bill 929, AN ACT TRANSFERRING
CERTAIN FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND REGULATING SPECIAL EFFECTS
DISPLAYS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Public Safety
Committee, Representative Dargan.

Thank you, Representative Dargan.

A VOICE:

We need the bill on the board.

A VOICE:

Remember, (inaudible).

REP. DARGAN (115th):

It's (inaudible) blanks like me, 800,000.

A VOICE:

Well, that's a Public Safety (inaudible).

A VOICE:

Yeah, right.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The House will stand at ease while we get IT to fix the malfunction on the voting board.

(Chamber at ease.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

House will come back to order.

I want to thank IT for walking in the room and all of a sudden the machine started to work. It's just magic.

Let's see, where were we?

Oh, yes, Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report, passage of the bill, in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on acceptance and passage in concurrence.

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Would you explain the bill, please,
Representative Dargan?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

I'd love to do that, but before I do that, that since this might be the last bill which my committee deals with, I would personally like to thank my Ranking Member, Representative Giegler, who's a little underneath the weather with her voice. And in the bull pen is Representative Bacchiochi, but I would like to thank the rest of the Republican members and Democratic members of the committee this year. Sometimes we don't say thank you enough to other committee members, so thank you for your hard work this year.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us now just transfers the responsibility of fireworks, its special effects back to the Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection from the Department of Construction Services. It also includes and provides a mechanism for the Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection to regulate the use of special effects traded by either pyrotechnics or flame-producing devices.

I move its adoption. I move adoption.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

I believe, Representative Dargan, there are some Senate amendments.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Oh. At this time, I would like to call amendments, so I was ahead of myself. I'll call adoption after I call it, once again.

But the Clerk is in possession of Senate Amendment "A," LCO Number 5658. Might he please call and I can be allowed the summary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5608, previously designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

Senate --

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

-- Amendment "A," LCO 5658, introduced by Senator Hartley.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The gentleman has asked to leave the Chamber to summarize.

Is there any objection?

Hearing none, Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

This technical amendment just changes the reference of Commissioner of Emergency Service and Public Protection for the constituency with the bill that's attached, and I move its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on adoption. Will you remark, Representative Dargan?

Representative Bacchiochi, on Senate A?

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And as the good Chairman said, we do have one man down on our side, which is proof that Republicans cannot talk forever. As you know, our Ranking Member does have laryngitis and will be quiet on this bill.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, one quick question. Does this in any way change the authority of state marshals, increase it or decrease it?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

The bill before us does not have any effect on that.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I also approve of passage of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

Will you remark further on -- on Senate Amendment Schedule "A?"

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

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, Nay.

The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an

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amendment, LCO 6442. I ask that it be called and I be given leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 6442, previously designated Senate Amendment Schedule "B."

Will you Clerk please call the amendment.

A VOICE:

Senate "B."

THE CLERK:

Senate "B," LCO 6442, introduced by Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there any objection?

Hearing none, Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What this amendment does is change the minimum standards for pitch on a roof for school construction from one-half per -- one -- one-half inch per linear foot to what the State Building Code is now, which is a quarter-inch per linear foot.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on adoption.

Will you remark further?

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to say what an excellent amendment this is, and it does something that's fairly rare as we pass legislation. This is going to save hundreds and thousands of dollars for our municipalities that currently have roof construction projects pending. I understand there are 34 roof-replacement projects already in the hopper, waiting for, hopefully waiting for a bill like this to pass.

What this will do is decrease the cost by eliminating certain things, such as the pitch is lower, therefore they need fewer leaders, fewer drains.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a question to the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

I just want to confirm for legislative intent that will this, upon passage, will it include the 34

projects that are with school construction right now?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

That is unclear; it intends on at what point that the schools are in the RFP process for bidding out those roofs.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you. I think it's very important that when we pass this today we make it very clear, because we're talking about a lot of money for each individual school. I know a lot of the schools have been in contact with their Legislators to find, make sure that this bill will apply to them.

Where, how far along in the process will an applicant need to be for this to apply to them?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rojas.

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REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I think they would have to have been before they signed a contract with their particular construction company.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So therefore would that mean -- I know there are three projects listed that have not signed the contract but they've been in touch with the stool -- school construction, and they're -- they're hoping to take advantage of the passage of this bill. Is it your intention that this would not apply to them?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my intention to apply for anybody who will qualify for the benefit.

Through you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Okay; I know that you are. I believe what you are saying is they would have to have signed the contract with School Construction in order for this to apply to them. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

No. No -- through you, Mr. Speaker -- that is not correct. And a lot of the schools are currently in negotiation with their particular construction companies because the summer season is almost upon us. So it just depends on whether that contract has been signed or whether they have any special provisions with the company recognizing that they know this legislation is currently being considered.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is an excellent bill, but I think as the debate continues, we have to dig into this and clarify it a little more. I know in my own e-mail I've had several contacts, and I can tell you that the answers you're giving me are going to have a lot of negative effects on them if we can't make it clear that they would qualify upon passage for this new legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

The gentleman from the 18th, Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of this amendment before us, and I -- I just want to make clear a couple things. Number one, this amendment brings school construction into conformity with other construction in the State of Connecticut. The State Building Code which works well for all other buildings in the State of Connecticut works well for school buildings, and it's -- it's a sensible thing to do.

And as Representative Rojas has -- has pointed out, there will be tremendous savings to a lot of

school districts that have been facing increased costs due to the disparity between our current school construction statute and the Building Code.

Lastly, with regard to Representative Bacchiochi's concerns, it's my understanding, as is, it is Representative Rojas's, that with passage of this amendment, any school district that is working on a project can apply this building code -- code standard, which I think is the right standard to apply.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Gentlewoman of the 98th, Representative Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment and I'll give you a little history of -- of why that is. A few years back, we did a tremendous amount of research and work on indoor air quality in public schools. We had a study from the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering that did not actually say that we should eliminate the one-quarter

pitch per foot but suggested rather that there was a, the major problem with indoor air quality from mold, water damage was for two reasons, basically from poorly maintained HVAC systems and the other was from leaking flat roofs.

Now over a period of 13 years, I served on the Guilford Board of Education and the Guilford Board of Selectmen. At the time, on behalf of each those boards, I was the representative to Guilford Standing Building Committee. In town we have a building committee that has architects, engineers, heating specialists; we're very fortunate that we have this expertise in town. And people have volunteered to serve on this building committee and they oversee every, single building project in town. It got to the point where the leaking flat roofs and all the problems that -- and -- and I say "flat roof." When I say flat roof, I mean the quarter-inch pitch. There is really no such thing as a perfectly flat roof that would be authorized to be built in the State of Connecticut. When I'm saying a flat roof, that's really what I'm referring to, the quarter-inch pitch.

At one point we were having so many problems with the flat roofs that we actually pitched, as we did

reconstruction on any of our buildings or any major renovations, we pitched all of the roofs, and any new building in town will never have a flat roof again because of the issues that we had.

Now that's not to say I understand that every, single flat roof in every -- every town in Connecticut has a, has a problem. But considering the changes in our weather patterns, when we have three feet of snow sitting on these roofs with practically, with very minimal pitch, we're going to have problems. I would rather have us have a high, a higher standard, spend the money up front, not have all of the problems that you later on have to address with teachers and children being sick because of mold and all kinds of problems in the air quality within the schools.

So I'm a realist; I can count, and I suspect that this amendment will pass tonight. But I can't let that go without a little history on why that one-half inch pitch was there to begin with. I think it was important, and so a lot of work was done on this, and I will be rejecting the amendment, based on that experience.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

Gentleman from the 8th, Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I just rise in support of this amendment. As listed, I listened to the public testimony that came to us and talked about the constructions, changes that would need to be done on many of our schools in terms of the existing roofs. People that are in the architecture field and the design field have said that there is no, that the concern of going to a half-inch that we're, the way it was, maybe as the good, as the good Representative mentioned regarding the care of maybe HVAC equipment or the care of the roof needs to be addressed more than the pitch of the roof, and I do, I do respect her comments.

But in the construction field, between designers, architects, installers, obviously things need to be done correct. But it's not the pitch that's creating the problem, so if going by state codes and state standards and national standards is the right way to go with this, so I do stand in support of this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

The gentlewoman from the 85th, Representative
Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to oppose the amendment, again for the reasons of air quality. I was involved in the public hearings when the teachers came in and the students who testified all day, probably eight or ten hours on illness in their schools. As a result of that series of complaints, Environment Committee asked for this work to be done by the, by the CASE group, the scientists and engineers for us, on our behalf. And they are the ones that recommended that we invest in good design and avoid consultants' fees, emergency corrective action, and litigation which is more expensive than the money the school district thinks they are saving when they do cost-cutting efforts.

So it may be cheaper to build roofs the improper way in the beginning, but it is more expensive in the end because the school district ends up dealing with lawsuits from teachers who are sick whenever they enter the school but they feel better when they go

home. And it is clearly related to the school.

Moisture intrusion into the school through leaks and then growth of mold spores and bacteria are the reasons they get sick, and it's the reason that children, that children's immunologic diseases are exacerbated, such as asthma.

The HVAC is the other problem, besides the roof design, and schools sometimes take shortcuts on the HVAC investment as well. Sometimes they'll shutdown the HVAC on the weekend and just make the problem worse.

Now we had several years -- this was in 2000, when the study was done -- several years later, I believe it was 2004, the Legislature passed additional language allowing a waiver of this roof design if the school district needed it. And I think the waivers already protect the school districts; it is not necessary to repeal a law that protects children and teachers when we have waivers built in the statutes.

For example, if the Commissioner of Construction Services finds that a reduction of roof pitch will not impede drainage or cause pooling of water, they can grant the waiver. If they find that the cost, if the Commissioner finds the cost to replacing the roof with

a minimum roof pitch of one-half inch per foot would substantially exceed the cost of replacing the roof with a minimum roof pitch of one-quarter inch per foot, again, the Commissioner may grant a waiver.

If the Commissioner finds the time needed to replace the roof would be substantially longer than the time needed to replace the roof with a one-quarter inch per foot, again, a waiver can be granted. If the Commissioner finds that the existing building will not support a roof with a roof pitch of one-half inch per foot without a substantial rebuilding of the building, again, the Commissioner will -- will allow a waiver or if there is not a -- now the -- the rest of this, the rest of that part of the statute has to do with the manufacturer's guarantee.

But there are waivers in statute since 2004. I think the information from the Academy of Sciences was good advice for the Legislature. It addressed the program of roof design and HVAC concerns. It addressed the problem of teachers and students not being able to perform and not being successful in school.

And today's action, I believe, is a step backwards from the protections to students and

teachers. And I realize towns are trying to save money, but save money now, pay money later. So I would urge a rejection of this change and a rejection of this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

The gentleman from the 135th, Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A couple of quick questions to the proponent of the amendment, if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I -- I thought I understood what this bill was doing. I just want to -- but the back and forth, and maybe I misunderstood it. If the, apparently there's 34 schools that are already, there's a list of 34 schools that are already in the pipeline. What, what's the demarcation? If this bill passes, gets signed today or tomorrow, and it's -- it's upon

passage, do these 34 schools get to take advantage of the lower pitch or is it, or does it have to be under contract? I, what's -- what's the trigger?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

It all depends on whether they have a signed contract or not at the time that this is signed.

Through you.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

All right, the --

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So regardless of this -- this list, the -- the issue is whether or not they have a signed contract for construction at the time the bill passes.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, the Department of Construction Services has been suggesting that school districts hold off as long as they can before signing a contract. I don't know how many have or haven't, but for those who have not yet, they would be able to benefit from the change in policy.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentleman.

I -- that cleared up -- I thought that's what the rule was but maybe I -- I misheard it.

Mr. Speaker, before I sit, if we, when we call the amendment, if we could, I request we do it by roll call.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on a roll call vote. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

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Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Ayes have it. The 20 percent has been met.
When the vote is taken, it will be taken by roll call.

Will you remark further on Senate Amendment "B?"
Will you remark further on Senate Amendment "B?"

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 Representative is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will
members please report to the Chamber immediately

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted? If all the members
have voted, the machine will be locked.

The Clerk --

THE CLERK:

One-thirty-three --

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

-- will take a tally.

THE CLERK:

-- thirteen, four.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Mr. Clerk, kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Substitute Senate Bill 929, roll call on Senate
"B."

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Adoption	74
Voting Yea	133
Nay	13
Absent, not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The amendment is passed.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Will you remark further on 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 opened.

THE CLERK:

The House Representatives is voting by roll. The
House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will
members please report to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted? If all the members
have voted, the machine will be locked. And the Clerk
will take a tally.

And Mr. Clerk, would you kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Oh, you (inaudible); did you lock the machine?
He -- we couldn't hear you. I'm sorry. Okay.

A VOICE:

One-thirty-nine, six, five.

THE CLERK:

Sorry, Bob.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, Substitute Senate Bill 929, as amended by -- by Senate "A" and "B."

Total Number Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Voting Yea	139
Nay	6
Absent, not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill as amended is passed, in concurrence with the Senate.

Mr. Clerk, 669.

THE CLERK:

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Madam President, if the Senate might stand at ease momentarily.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney, good morning.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would call as the next ready item, Calendar Page 24, Calendar 484, Senate Bill 983 from the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 24, Calendar 484, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 983, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING UNCLASSIFIED FELONIES, Favorable Report of the Committee on Judiciary. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good morning, Senator Doyle.

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SENATOR DOYLE:

Good morning, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR DOYLE:

Yes, thank you, Madam President.

This bill before us is a bill, a lot of hard work by the Sentencing Commission regarding classifying unclassified felonies. This is a collaborative effort of prosecutors, public defenders, all sorts of interested parties on the Commission really kind of cleaning up our felonies, making sure they are properly classified, whether A, B, C or D, actually creates Class E. It would just make a lot of order amongst all our statutes.

That being said, there is one amendment I'd ask the Clerk please call and I be allowed to summarize and that's LCO 6587.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6587, Senate "A", offered by Senator Coleman.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

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Thank you, Madam President.

I first move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption.

Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR DOYLE:

Yes, thank you, Madam President.

This amendment clarifies a problem in Section 94. Basically it was really kind of a -- a glitch in connection with the -- the drafting and what it really does is again this is -- it -- it removes 94 that's incorrect in the file copy. It just clarifies and classifies the -- the crime identified in here satisfying and detailing that it's a Class D felony for again classification purposes and I urge the Chamber to approve Senate -- Senate "A".

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much.

Before I speak on the -- actually let me just speak on this amendment and -- as well as the underlying bill and --

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR KISSEL:

-- move matters along since it's about seven of one in the morning. This amendment is a good amendment. I urge my colleagues to adopt it and vote in favor of

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it. It merely states that the underlying crime, the penalty for that is appropriate and, in fact, it does not reduce it whatsoever.

And regarding the underlying bill, a lot of credit goes to former Ranking Member from the House, Bob Farr, who spent an inordinate amount of time pouring through the statutes, giving -- categorizing the felonies that were unclassified that we had on the books such that when people go before prosecutors that it's apples to apples and oranges to oranges.

I will stress there is in no way shape or form any reduction in penalties for appropriate crime. There's no getting soft on crime with this underlying bill. It merely takes unclassified felonies, compares them to similarly situated felonies and makes sure that they are graded A felony, B felony, C felony, D felony or a new category E felony and for those reasons I support the amendment, urge its adoption and support the underlying bill.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark on the -- Senate "A"? Will you remark on Senate "A"?

If not, I'll try your minds. All in favor of Senate "A" please say aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed?

Senate "A" is adopted.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Doyle.

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SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move this bill to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, have another item to -- to move to the Consent Calendar. Madam President, would ask for suspension for taking an item which is on Senate Agenda Number 3, House Bill 5607. First of all would move for suspension to take up that item.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And now, Madam President, would move to place House Bill 5607 on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

If we might stand at ease until the next item is ready.

THE CHAIR:

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Madam President, seeing no objection, would this item please be placed on our Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney..

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, with that item being moved to the Consent Calendar, Madam President, there is an -- an item on the foot of the Calendar to be removed and, Madam President, on -- on the foot of the Calendar, Calendar Page 42, Calendar 648, House Bill 6660, would move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it passed retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, at this point if the Clerk would list the items on the second Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5607; House Bill 6509; House Bill 5027. On Page 4, Calendar 459, House Bill 6622; on Page 7, Calendar 536, Senate Bill 1163.

HB6591

Page 14, Calendar 651, House Bill 6565. On Page 15, Calendar 660, House Bill 6290. Page 17, Calendar 678, House Bill 6671. Also Calendar 686, House Bill 6528.

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SENATE

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June 4, 2013

On Page 19, Calendar 689, House Bill 6677 and on Page 24, Calendar 484, Senate Bill Number 983.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the second Consent Calendar. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on Senate -- on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Consent Calendar Number 2.

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

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of any items voted on the second Consent Calendar needing additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

cah/gbr
SENATE

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So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also if there are any other items that were voted individually that may need additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Good, thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, that will conclude -- conclude our business for this evening or this morning at this point. Before adjournment I would yield the floor to any members for announcements or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Any announcements or personal privilege?

Seeing none, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, for a -- a Journal notation. Senator Coleman was -- was absent and missed votes today due to -- due to illness.

THE CHAIR:

So noted, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, one other item. On the -- the -- the items on the foot of the Calendar beginning on Calendar Page 27, beginning with Calendar 59, on Calendar Page 27 at the beginning of the foot and

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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

2013

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jar/mb/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY
COMMITTEE

February 28, 2013
12:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: REPRESENTATIVE DARGAN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: HARTLEY, OSTEN, WITKOS,
GUGLIELMO

REPRESENTATIVES:

ARCONTI, AYAYA,
BACCHIOCHI, BOUKUS,
CLEMONS, D'AMELIO,
ESPOSITO, GIEGLER,
HAMPTON, HWANG, JUTILA,
KUPCHICK, MIKUTEL,
NICASTRO, ORANGE, ROVERO,
VERRENGIA, YACCARINO,
ZUPKUS

REP. DARGAN: Good afternoon everyone the Public Safety and Sec -- Security Committee public hearing will try to come to order at this time. What we are going to try to do is the first hour is for testimony from state officials, other legislators and municipal officials. We try to keep comments to three minutes to try to move things along.

There are members of this committee that have other responsibilities in some other committees and they are voting right now and so if you see people coming in and out, it doesn't mean that they are not interested, just that they're trying to multitask their other requirements that they have. So with that if you do have written testimony, if you could try to limit that towards three minutes because we have that testimony and then you will hear a bell and at that time if you could just summarize, so. With that the first presenter is my good friend Deputy Salemi.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PASQUALE SALEMI: Good Morning Mr. Chair, members of the committee. I am Bud Salemi, I am the Deputy Commissioner of

SB 929
HB 6425

COMMITTEE

Construction Services. We have -- well first I want to thank the committee for raising the two DCS requested legislative proposals. The committee has our submitted testimony so in the interest of time I will briefly summarize the intent of the two proposals, Raised Senate Bill 929-AAC CONSOLIDATION OF FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.

The language before you represents the functions of -- from the governor's 2011 merger consolidation. They are being proposed for a relocation to DESPP, the department -- DESPP. They are fireworks, model rocketry, explosives and a relocation of special effects to DESPP as proposed by then Department of Public Safety in 2011. During the 2012 session, these functions were discussed with Commissioner Bradford and OPM and all parties agree that these functions make sense to relocate to DESPP. Currently these functions are being performed by DESPP staff via MOU -- excuse me -- further demonstrating why these functions are being considered for reassignment. Now I also have Raised House Bill 6425: AAC FIRE SAFETY FIRE OFFICIALS CERTIFICATION. This is a resubmission of the 2012 DCS proposal that I know you have spent some time discussing with DCS staff. I want to show the committee that Raised Bill 6425 is a technical concept aimed at eliminating an administrative burden on the office of Education and Data Management. Currently the OEDM staff, as a result of the phrase: eligible to be certified, must maintain two separate lists to account for the employment and training of these classes of fire officials. This proposal simply removes eligible and ascertains that if you have completed the training examinations prescribed by the state fire marshal in consultation with the Codes and Standards Committee, you are

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jar/mb/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY
COMMITTEE

February 28, 2013
12:00 P.M.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PASQUALE SALEMI: Sure.

SENATOR DARGAN: --to whatever that their concerns are too but with that thank you very much for being here.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Further questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for being with us today. We'd like to next invite Steve Spellman, a liaison for death and good afternoon to you, Mr. Spellman.

STEVE SPELLMAN: Good Afternoon Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan and members of the committee. I am Steven Spellman, I serve as chief of staff for Commissioner Reuben Bradford for the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The agency has filed testimony today in regard to four bills on your agenda and I will comment briefly in regard to each of them and then be available to respond to any questions.

HB 6424
SB 898
SB 929

The first of these is Senate Bill 969 AN ACT CONCERNING FEES CHARGED FOR CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS. The issue addressed by this bill is that the existing language of the statute does not allow the agency to charge for criminal history background checks or individuals who are being licensed by other agencies. Essentially the language provides that if a check comes to us from a sister agency or from a municipality we cannot charge a state fee. So what happens is that the agency has the responsibility and uses it's resources and is able to only collect the pass through fee to the FBI of \$16.50. The change of this, this would not effect if an agency needed a background check for persons that it wanted to employ itself, in other words if the Department of Revenue Services needs a

COMMITTEE

terms of when that must be done. All three of those are agency bills. The last bill that I would like to comment on is Senate Bill 929, which you heard from -- with the previous speaker regarding the consolidation functions of construction services and relate -- regulating special effects. This bill essentially would give us back -- by statute - - responsibilities that we have continued to perform pursuant to an MOU, specifically explosives and fireworks regulation which is carried out by our cause and origin unit. We have continued to do that by memorandum of understanding and this bill would give those responsibilities, and only those responsibilities. It is coupled with a provision, a proposal that actually came from DESPP when it was DPS and when it included defibs which would fill a hole in the regulatory structure in terms of regulating special effects. Increasingly LP gas displays are used for special effects and they aren't technically covered in the statutes and it would be appropriate that there be the authority to review the safety of those before they are used in public places. So with that I would be glad to respond to any questions.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you very much Steve. Thank you also for this submitted written testimony for those who will be running in and out of today's meeting. Are there questions from committee members? There are a number of agency bills. We'll go first to Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you Madam Chair. Steve could you just refresh my memory on speaking to House Bill 6424, which is the fees for a search of an accident report or a copy of an accident report. When did they -- is -- did they -- you said they changed the law back in

COMMITTEE

1993 to increase from \$6 to \$16 per copy. Is a municipality or the state still allowed to charge per page or is that not a function any longer?

STEVE SPELLMAN: Nope, it -- it -- it went with that change to a flat \$16 fee so it doesn't matter if it is a two page document or a 200 page document, it's a \$16 fee.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you Senator Witkos further questions from committee members? Yes, Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you Madam Chair. Steve?

STEVE SPELLMAN: Senator?

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Quick thing. On this Senate Bill 929 talks about special effects would -- you know, I put a bill in on those exploding targets, would that come under this?

STEVE SPELLMAN: No I don't think so --

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Uh huh.

STEVE SPELLMAN: -- because your bill -- like wouldn't address like a private residence?

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: All right, okay sorry.

STEVE SPELLMAN: And an important issue but is aware from that case in your district, but this would be in areas for public display.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you Senator. Steve, with regard to the criminal record check and

SB 969

COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEE

Simsbury and I represent the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association and I'm here today to speak on House Bill 6425 and Senate Bill 929. The first bill is the Connecticut Fire Marshal Associations is opposed to House Bill 6425: AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS as currently drafted. This bill was before the Public Safety Sub Committee during at 2012 session at which time the CFMA also opposed the bill and the committee did not move the bill forward. Basically what this does is the bill identifies the change of responsibility of certifying the local fire marshal and the deputy fire marshal from the local communities which currently does it now and give the state the authority to certify the individual. While the bill's statement of intent is to streamline the process we don't really believe that to be the case 100 percent. The goal should be to understand some of the items that we would like to install into that and that is -- first and foremost is -- to model it pretty close to what the building officials have right now if the state currently licenses the building the officials and to have a prerequisite. Currently the building officials require five years in the -- in the trade in which to get licensed, if that was to be the case. We are proposing some language - - actually three different changes to the bill which is attached to your -- to your -- to my testimony here, first three major areas. The first area is to put the prerequisite in and we believe that this is a minimum standard that should be addressed in throughout most of the states out there have -- prerequisites to be a fire marshal. Additionally we'd like to see the fire marshal training council be the one to be paired with the state fire marshal to recommend the standards that will be addressed on how the fire marshals are trained. Years back, prior to 1980's the Code of Standards

was the only organization back then that was paired up with the state fire marshal for the purpose. Since then the training council was formed and it's a group formed by this organization as well as the governor's office and a state fire marshal's office. Representatives throughout education, fire marshal's organizations, codes and standards sits on a training council and this would more modernize the system and have a more in lined area. Additionally as requested there was a request to put in a change to have the \$90 of required training for the local fire marshal to be part of this bill to-- to adjust that, to be an averaged 90 hours, so we are recommending an average of 90 hours. Once a fire marshal has -- has assumed 90 hours of training in three years but if he does that in one year then he is not required to do any more training for the next ultimately over 2, 3, 4 years because he is in the next cycle so we are looking at more of a rotating basis but that's something that we could work out with the organization. We are looking forward to working with the organization to work out these details and perhaps come up with a common language and goal. The second item if I may be very brief -- on and that is we do support Bill 929 -- the bringing back a lot of the jobs and responsibilities from DCS back to DESPP for the purposes of hazardous materials, special hazards, fireworks etc. One of the things that we are finding is that there's a little bit of disconnect between organizations and MOUs required, inspections, investigations are all through different commissioners and different organizations so what we're encouraging then is also as part of our recommendation to move the state fire marshal and I believe it's FEO Services Group which is about eight individuals back to DESPP also. That's something that we were requesting last

COMMITTEE

year and we're continuing to request this year to have a little bit more consistency with responsibilities as a local fire marshal. Right now if you move it back to desk then what happens is the local fire marshal has no direct correlation back up to DESPP it's still with DCS and I'll entertain any questions that

--

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- wait just --

KEVIN KOWALSKI: -- may be brought up --

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- so I got that -- so you -- the state fire marshal and who else back up to DESPP?

KEVIN KOWALSKI: It would be group called FEO Services.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Fields. Uh huh. Okay so what's -- Field Services is part of the state fire marshal

KEVIN KOWALSKI: It's under the state fire marshal as a small group that takes care of code interpretations, development of codes. For instance, they were very active after the school incident where everyone was asking about locking doors, how do you secure doors? That group was very instrumental in coming up with a good standard on working with that locking arrangement and -- and setting a standard for us and assisted local fire marshals. So it's important to keep that with the loco -- the state fire marshals -- that small group. And this is merely an adjustment to the original Senate Bill 1010 of two year ago.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So the MOU covers our Fields Services and State Fire Marshal.

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Well we're at -- no it does right now. There's not MOU that covers that group. The state fire marshal currently under DCS.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So it's --

KEVIN KOWALSKI: -- and we're asking for it to be moved under DESPP to manage that group that is being sent over. There are special hazards and things of that nature. I might want to add in Senate Bill 929 the proposal. It actually still keeps the state fire marshal as the appeal person for some of the requirements of that statute so now we're going to go back and forth on that so it's important to keep everything kind of consistent with that group.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So it's been what? Two years?

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Two years.

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Do you have any comments about the -- or maybe you don't, the service during the course of that time?

KEVIN KOWALSKI: It quite frankly has been very confusing to the local fire marshals as far as how everything is to work and is to go through the uniform folks, the enforcement group has done an outstanding group supporting the fire marshal but they are not working for the state fire marshal per say, they are still -- they are working under DESPP and the state fire marshal is trying to keep the bridge going but there is nothing really official, there's an MOU supposedly out there but again as we were seeing here even DCS understands that we need to move that -- that officially back to -- to

public safety and I think it's important to get that support back from the state fire marshal over also with -- you know -- with Field Services Group.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Right and then your proposing an add on with that too.

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Well the state fire marshal and the Field Services Group

SENATOR HARTLEY: Field Services, yes. Questions from committee members? Yes, co chair Dargan.

REP. DARGAN: On the -- on fire marshal's training and what your concerns are because just correct me if I'm wrong -- I mean whether it's a career or volunteer community if individual within that respected community is not certified as a fire marshal and the chief or board of commissions or whatever the makeup of the body is -- first selectman or however they do it in that community puts a personnel said we want you to be our fire marshal -- of course they're not certified at that time and I think it's the same thing when somebody that's retire you have the right for 180 days to put that individual as deputy fire marshal, I'm not sure if that's the correct terminology but that individual would then go to Connecticut fire school I assume to eventually get certified as a fire marshal.

HB6425

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Well actually what happens is the -- the local authority, the community will ask the -- will send out -- send the person to a school which is taught by the office of Education Data Management. They manage that course; it's not the fire academy. The fire academy has a hand in it but it's -- but it's -- it's a bit of a different item because they were specialists at the time. Office of



February 28, 2013

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

RE: **S.D. #929 – AN ACT CONCERNING CONSOLIDATING FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND REGULATING SPEACIAL
EFFECTS**

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Dargan and Hartley and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee;

My name is John Yacovino, and I am the President of the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association (CFMA). I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the CFMA regarding Senate Bill No. 929 – AN ACT CONCERNING CONSOLIDATING FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND REGULATING SPEACIAL EFFECTS.

The CFMA proposes that the State Fire Marshal, along with the Field Services Division be moved back to DESPP to allow for better support of the local fire marshals who perform these functions on a local level. This minor adjustment would streamline operations between the state and the local level.

Respectfully,

John Yacovino, President
Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association

203-537-1329
jyacovino@meridenct.gov

PIL 16



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

February 28, 2013

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**SB 929 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSOLIDATION FUNCTIONS AND
OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND
REGULATING SPECIAL EFFECTS DISPLAYS**

*The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
supports this bill.*

This proposed bill would return statutory responsibility for the regulation of explosives, fireworks and model rocketry to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The agency is currently responsible for the functions pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Construction Services. Essentially, the bill would codify in statute responsibilities that the agency is already carrying out.

The bill would also provide for the regulation of displays of special effects produced by pyrotechnics or flame producing devices.

This bill provides a mechanism for the department to regulate the use of special effects created by either pyrotechnics or flame producing devices such as a propane burner. Currently there is a void with respect to the regulation of flame effects before an audience. Further, this bill will allow for the licensing of technicians specifically for the operation of these types of special effects.

SB 929

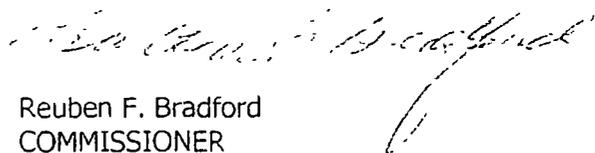
February 28, 2013

Page 2

The use of these types of special effects is becoming more common as an enhanced stage effect in the entertainment industry. As a result of the Station Night Club fire in Rhode Island just over eight years ago, which claimed the lives of one hundred people, the actual use of pyrotechnic material has declined. In place of this, flame effects primarily using propane and liquid alcohol have been introduced.

This proposal would permit the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to develop regulations to provide minimum requirements to the manufacturers and operators for the safe operation of pyrotechnic and flame effects. It would also allow the agency to license operators and provide a mechanism for requiring permits for such events. Passage of the bill would result in uniform enforcement across the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 929
AAC Consolidation Functions and Operations of the
Department of Construction Services and Regulating Special Effects

Pasquale Salemi
Deputy Commissioner, Department of Construction Services
Public Safety and Security Committee
February 28, 2013

Good morning Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Geigler, and distinguished members of the committee. For the record, my name is Pasquale Salemi, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Construction Services. On behalf of Commissioner DeFronzo and the DCS staff, I would like to thank the leadership of the committee for raising this proposal.

Raised Senate Bill 929, An Act Concerning Consolidation Functions and Operations of the Department of Construction Services and Regulating Special Effects Displays, reflects the agreement between DCS and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to transfer certain functions from DCS to DESPP. The functions that are the subject of this bill are functions that fell under the Department of Public Safety's purview before the agency consolidations of July 2011. Namely, Senate Bill 929 seeks to return to DESPP responsibility for the regulation of the following areas: Explosives, fireworks, and model rocketry.

Currently, DESPP performs these functions by way of a MOU between our departments. As such, the transfers of authority reflected by the bill do not require any transfer of people or other resources.

In addition, the bill seeks to establish within DESPP a mechanism for that department to regulate the use of special effects created by either pyrotechnics or flame producing devices. Two years ago, this special effects component was a stand-alone proposal by the Office of the State Fire Marshal currently within DCS but then a part of the Department of Public Safety. Currently, there is a void with respect to the regulation of flame effects before an audience. This bill will also allow for the licensing of technicians specifically for the operation of these types of special effects. The bill specifically carves out of the regulations ceremonial activities that include minimal use of pyrotechnics or flame producing devices.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. My staff and I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.



The Connecticut Fire Marshals Assoc.

Fire Marshal Kevin J Kowalski - Legislative rep.
kkowalski@simsburyfd.org 860-658-1971

Testimony Before the Public Safety and Security Committee

February 28, 2013

Raised House Bill 6425 AAC Fire Safety Enforcement Officials and Raised Senate Bill 929 AN ACT Concerning Consolidation Functions and Operations of the Department Of Construction Services and Regulating Special Effects Displays

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Kevin Kowalski, I am the Fire Marshal for the Town of Simsbury and I represent the CT Fire Marshals Association I am here today to speak on HB 6425 and SB 929.

The CT Fire Marshals Association is opposed to HB 6425 AAC Fire Safety Enforcement Officials as currently drafted. This bill was before the Public Safety Committee during the 2012 session, at which time the CFMA opposed the bill, and the Committee did not move the bill forward.

This bill will change the responsibility of certifying the local Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal from the local community and give it to the state. While the bill's statement of intent is to streamline the process of certifying fire safety enforcement officials, we do not believe this proposal achieves that goal. Currently, the Office of the State Fire Marshal certifies an individual as eligible to be certified once they complete a recognized training program and then once hired by a community, is actually certified. While we agree with the intent of the proposal, and we believe it would mimic the process by which a building official is licensed by the state, the difference is those individuals are required to have 5 years of experience in a trade, such as heating, plumbing or electrical work.

The CFMA believes that there should also be prerequisites for potential Fire Marshals if the state wants the sole authority to certify. In an effort to professionalize fire marshals, the CFMA proposes adding specific experience for the certification of Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals, fire inspectors and fire investigators as follows. Fire Fighter I Certification/Hazardous Materials Operational, or three years of experience in the fire service, or three years of experience within a Fire Marshal's office, or a certified police officer.

We also recommend including a change to the certification authority: from the Codes and Standards Committee to the the Fire Marshal Training council and The State Fire Marshal.



The Connecticut Fire Marshals Assoc.

Fire Marshal Kevin J Kowalski - Legislative rep.
kkowalski@simsburyfd.org 860-658-1971

Additionally, we ask that the 90 hour training requirement every three years be changed to 90 hours on a rotating average. This would give credit to those who are able to train for more than 90 hours.

The second bill that I would like to testify on is SB 929 AAC Consolidating Functions and Operations of the Department of Construction Services and Regulating Special Effects

In 2011, many agency functions were consolidated, including some duties and responsibilities of various positions from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to the Department of Construction Services. These specific consolidations have created confusion and have made for a disjointed atmosphere. The consolidations proposed in SB 929 will create more confusion as the State Fire Marshal would no longer have authority over special hazards, explosives, and pyrotechnics. The CFMA proposes that the State Fire Marshal, along with the small field service support staff, move back to DESPP to allow for better support of the local fire marshals who take care of these functions locally. This would be a minor adjustment and would streamline operations and communications between the state and local level.