

PA13-93

HB5278

House	4412-4417	6
Public Safety	46-47, 120-128, 179, 180-181, 264-270, (293)	22
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 13
4177 – 4511**

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the Members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast?

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

Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 829, in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting 132

Necessary for Passage 67

Those voting Yea 131

Those voting Nay 1

Absent and not voting 18

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill passes, in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the House --will the Clerk please call

Calendar Number 231?

THE CLERK:

On Page 43, Calendar Number 231, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, House Bill 5278, AN ACT AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO

CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE
HIGHWAYS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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

Will you remark, sir?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk has an Amendment, LCO Number 7060. May
he please call and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar -- LCO Number
7060, which will be designated House Amendment "A"?

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 7060, introduced by
Representative Klarides, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Gentleman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection? Is there objection?

Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This Amendment, will -- which would become the bill, just clarifies for Local, Municipal, Career, and Volunteer Fire Departments, limiting access when they do boot drives, whether it be for local charitable thing or MDAs within their respective communities.

And I move for its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further on the Amendment?

Representative Klarides of the 114th.

REP. KLARIDES (114th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Amendment. It is fixing some problems with the underlying bill. This arose from an issue that we had in the city of Derby, with four volunteer fire departments. And I want to thank the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Representative Dargan, and my Ranking

Member, Representative Scribner, Representative
Guerrera, and Representative Giegler for the work
they've done on this.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

Do you care to remark further on the Amendment
before us? Do you care to remark further on the
Amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in
favor of House Amendment "A", please signify by saying
aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Those opposed, nay.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted.

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

If not, staff and guests 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 Representative is voting by roll. Will the members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the Members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast?

If all the members have voted, and it appears they have, the machine will be locked. And the Clerk will take a tally.

Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 5278, as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting 132

Necessary for Passage 67

Those voting Yea 129

Those voting Nay 3

Absent and not voting 18

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill, as amended, passes.

Is there any further business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

There are Favorable Reports Senate bills to be tabled for the Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Thank you. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I move we waive the reading of the Senate Favorable -- Favorable Reports and the bills be tabled for the Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The motion is to waive the reading of the Senate bills and to have them tabled for the Calendar.

Is there objection? Is there objection?

Seeing none, so ordered.

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Flexer.

REP. FLEXER (44th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
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PART 1
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**2013
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attributable to one's speech, and I indicate to you that clearly such 9-1-1 calls will be considered a speech and it would be a cost, a potential cost, which would be attributed to that speech.

And for that reason, I respectfully request and urge you to support this bill because the adoption of this bill would send a clear message throughout the State of Connecticut that any attempt to chill the rights of our citizens to free speech would be prohibited and not tolerated.

Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Dan, for your testimony. Is there any questions from Committee Members? Hearing none, thank you very much.

DANIEL SILVER: Thank you for your attention.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Representative Themis Klarides. Is Themis here?

DAVID KOVACKS: Good afternoon. My name is Davie Kovacks and I'm speaking on behalf of Themis Klarides. I would like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs, Senator Joan Hartley and Representative Stephen Dargan, the Honorable Vice-Chairs, Senator Andres Ayala and Representative Joe Verrengia, the Ranking Members Senator Anthony Guglielmo and Representative Jan Giegler and the entire Membership of the Public Safety Committee for their time.

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Themis Klarides would like to apologize for her absence today but wanted to voice her support for this bill, as well as thank all of you for taking the time to listen.

This bill will amend Title 13b of the General Statutes to require the Department of

COMMITTEE

Transportation to issue special event permits to requesting fire departments who would like to conduct charitable "fill the boot" drives on state roads.

Under existing policies, the Department of Transportation defines what is considered a special event and a "fill the boot" drive does not qualify for the permit.

This proposal seeks to correct that by granting these events eligible for the permit. These fund raising drives are critical fund raising tools for the fire departments in my communities.

Route 34 running through the Towns of Derby, Orange and Woodbridge, provides a steady stream of traffic and many willing individuals who are eager to support our volunteer departments.

By amending these statutes, we will make it easier for these hard-working fire departments to raise much needed funds in today's tough economic climate. These funds raised will benefit the community at large.

I respectfully request your thoughtful review and consideration of this legislative proposal and that you support its passage out of your Committee. Please contact our office with any questions. Sincerely, Themis Klarides. Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much. Any questions? Hearing none, thank you very much.

Next is Michael Casey.

MICHAEL CASEY: Good afternoon. My name is Michael Casey. I'm speaking today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Realtors in support of Proposed House Bill 6015 AN ACT PROHIBITING

HB 5294

COMMITTEE

REP. YACCARINO: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Further questions? Hearing none, thank you very much. Next presenter is Sheila Matthews. Is Sheila Matthews here? She's not here.

The next presenter is Gary, Ansonia. Do all the valley boys want to come up together? We get you out at one time, since you've been sitting here. Gene and Gary. If Gentile stayed around we would have got you out of here, you know?

GARY PARKER: Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley, other distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for offering us this opportunity today to testify.

We are all here today to endorse the support for House Bill 5278 AN ACT AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE HIGHWAYS.

My presentation is made on behalf of the officers and members of the Derby Fire Department and as such, I respectfully ask this Committee to report favorably for the proposed bill.

It is the understanding of our department, permitted operations that would be allowed under this proposed bill would exclude all boot drives on limited access highways and we take no exception to that and fully endorse that stipulation.

In Derby we have two major state roads passing through our municipality, Route 34, which is a major connector from New Haven to Newtown and Route 8, is a limited access highway north to south.

COMMITTEE

We historically, our department over 30 years has run boot drives on Route 34 on a fairly regular basis. In recent years we were made aware of a prohibition by the Department of Transportation allowing said boot drives on state highways.

Up until that point, we had close coordination with the Derby Police Department for each one of those events individually stipulating the time, the date, the conditions and the monitoring the traffic that we were working within.

In those 30 years, we did not have any reported incidents, no MVAs, no injuries and no undue obstruction to the public passing on the state highways.

Although it is the firefighters listed in the title of this proposed bill, the true benefactors of this act will be the countless individual and group recipients who will benefit with the benevolence generated as a result of it.

Additionally, proceeds have been directed in the past to assist fire department members and families of members in distress due to extreme cases of injury or illness.

This has been found as an additional benefit for us, to be a very effective means in our never-ending task of recruitment and retention of members in our volunteer department. Our members take a lot of pride in knowing that we watch out for each other, and this in times of distress has assisted us to do that.

To conclude my presentation, I feel compelled to make the following point to you. The tradition of the fire service is to protect life and property in that order.

Typically our call to service requires a response of our resources to remedy a bad situation and make it good. In most cases we can accomplish that task with our hoses, our hurst tools and our ladders, but sometimes it takes a response without the lights, without the sirens. What it takes is the ability to deliver benevolence and that is what we are here today to ask you to endorse.

Thank you very much for your time.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much. Any other input?

GENE SHARKEY: Yes, if I may, please. Good afternoon, Chairman Dargan, Senator Hartley and Members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is Gene Sharkey. I am Acting Mayor of the City of Ansonia. I'm Chairman of the Fire Commission of the Ansonia Fire Department.

I'm here today to present testimony in support of House Bill Number 5278.

REP. DARGAN: Gene, where's the Dellavolpe? You're the Acting Mayor. What happened to Dellavolpe?

GENE SHARKEY: He's in Hawaii.

REP. DARGAN: Oh.

GENE SHARKEY: He left me with the snowstorm.

REP. DARGAN: Oh. Okay. I was getting worried.

GENE SHARKEY: Well, thank you very much, but he's there, but I'm driving his car. I have his car.

I'd like to respectfully request the Committee to report favorably on House Bill 5278.

REP. DARGAN: If you keep it underneath a minute, we'll probably get a pass and you could tell Dellavolpe how efficient you are, you know?

GENE SHARKEY: I could do that. I will try that. I'd just like to say this year I celebrate my 50th year as a volunteer firefighter.

For years, and I'll just wing this from here on in and will take a minute and get out. For years, we conduct a boot drive only twice a year. It's at the intersection of Routes 115 and 243.

115 is our Main Street in the City of Ansonia. What we do is, we have approval of the mayor's office. We have approval of the police department. We let them know ahead of time when we're going to schedule one and we don't impede traffic. It's a very small boot drive.

I've listened to all the important testimony on all these bills since 11:00 o'clock this morning, and ours might seem like a minor problem, but we only collect between \$4,000 and \$5,000 at a boot drive. We donate all of that money, or most of it, to very important causes.

Last year we took the proceeds from one complete boot drive and we donated it to a family that had a one-year-old child who was suffering from eye cancer. That was to cover them going to Philadelphia every time they had to go for a treatment.

We took out last boot drive in December and we donated the money not to Sandy Hook, to their fund, we donated it to the Sandy Hook Fire Department.

We have very important obligations that we meet with this, so we'd like to see it continue.

If I can make one suggestion. It's that, if you're thinking of continuing to have it be a permit sort of thing with the Department of Transportation, please allow us to put in for

say two boot drives a year, to have it be very flexible because there's times that we have to cancel because of weather, because of the fact that we have to go fight a fire. So we can't exactly say it's going to happen on this day.

But if they allowed us to schedule two or three a year with the approval of the local districts, that would be very important to us. Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Gene. We have one question from another firefighter, Representative Clemons.

REP. CLEMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, congratulations on your 50th year.

GENE SHARKEY: Thank you.

REP. CLEMONS: As a matter of fact, I'm celebrating my 14th year in retirement from the Bridgeport Fire Department --

GENE SHARKEY: Congratulations.

REP. CLEMONS: -- but I applaud all you gentlemen in our public service positions.

A quick question, though. When you mentioned the collecting on, I know, Route 34, Route 8, question, would that be, would you be stationed at the exit ramps and entrance ramps or how, when you say Route 8.

GENE SHARKEY: No, Route 34 takes a left-hand turn in Derby and continues on toward Danbury. What Route 115 does is, it picks up where Route 34 makes a turn and it continues straight through the center of Ansonia as Route 115. We are maybe a mile up the road at the first traffic light. It's Division Street. It divides their town and our town, so we're on all four corners there. Our problem is, the City of Ansonia has

absolutely no problem with us running a boot drive.

The City of Derby feels that they will enforce the DOT obligation and every time we go on the road we're subject to arrest by the City of Derby.

So all we're asking to do is, if we make it subject to the local jurisdiction, which they've never enforced it before, so what we presently do in the City of Ansonia is stand on three corners rather than stand on the one.

REP. CLEMONS: Well, thank you for that clarification. I was misinterpreting what you said in the beginning about Route 8. I'm sorry.

GENE SHARKEY: No. We're nowhere near Route 8.

REP. CLEMONS: Okay.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Well, thank you very much for coming. Just for full disclosure the first smokehouse I ever was in was in Derby before they had Scott and (inaudible) with the Chief of New Haven, which was involved with Derby and I've been to Percussett's and I've been to a number of other places for additional training at those firehouses, so. Nobody really got that, but you guys would get it.

GENE SHARKEY: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: All right, Chief, do you want to speak?

CHARLES STANKYE, JR.: Yes.

REP. DARGAN: Okay. I don't want to throw you out there, Chief. I want to make sure you get your time in.

CHARLES STANKYE, JR.: Thank you. I'm also here to offer testimony in support of House Bill 5278. My name is Charles M. Stankye, Jr., a longtime member. I have a few years on Gene here, of the Paugasset Hook and Ladder Company of Derby.

Traditionally, firefighters, both volunteer and career have held boot drives on the local roads throughout the State of Connecticut unimpeded. The statutes were seldom enforced, if at all. That practice continues to this day.

The proceeds of these boot drives have benefited numerous charitable and community causes throughout Connecticut.

For many years, my company has been holding a boot drive twice a year on Derby Avenue, which is Route 34, which runs in front of our firehouse. This is a state-owned road. Most of the local main roads in our cities and towns are owned by the state.

The drives are held on a Saturday before Memorial Day and on Saturday after Thanksgiving, weather permitting. We are on the road between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 or 3:00 p.m.

The safety of all participants is always in the forefront of our activities. Traffic cones are set up to maintain orderly lanes. Signs and fire apparatus with flashing lights are set in place far ahead of the collection area, and our personnel are dressed in turnout gear with traffic vests on. The backup of the traffic flow is also monitored and is opened up if it gets too congested.

Donations are usually a couple of dollar bills per vehicle or a handful of change, including some tokens. Occasionally we get a \$10 or @20

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February 7, 2013

pat/gbr

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

11:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE

bill. Once we received a store bought apple pie from a woman that felt sorry for us. And there are those who just drive by.

These boot drives benefit many charitable causes in our community and the surrounding areas. Among the benefactors are organized youth activities, such as Boy Scouts, Little League, Pop Warner, Bidy Basketball, scholarships for the public and parochial schools in Derby, the Bridgeport Burn Center and many others.

We have purchased live-saving and firefighting equipment such as the first thermal imaging camera in the Naugatuck Valley area. Five years ago we saved money from several boot drives to purchase and equip an all terrain vehicle. This vehicle is very useful in accessing the Derby Greenway, which is a two-mile long walking trail. The trail is not readily accessible for a full-sized motor vehicle to get to someone who is injured or suffers a medical seizure.

The vehicle is also used to get firefighters and equipment to brush fires in remote areas of Osbornedale State Park and Witek Park.

A few days before our spring 2012 boot drive we were informed by the Derby Police Department that our permission was revoked because of a violation of State Statues pertaining to highways. To hold the drive would subject us to arrest. We canceled further boot drives.

A fire company in neighboring Ansonia, which Gene spoke about, has regularly held their boot drive on Division Street, which is the border between Ansonia and Derby. The Derby Police Department instructed them to stay on the Ansonia side or face possible arrest. They had no problem with the Ansonia Police Department.

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Following the tragedy in Sandy Hook, firefighters throughout Connecticut held boot drives for the benefit of the Sandy Hook Fund. They didn't have any hindrance from any police departments. We would have been out there also, except for the Derby Police directive.

Our situation in Derby is an isolated incident. Boot drives continue to be held in Connecticut on state-owned local roads. No one else seems to have this problem.

We would like to be able to conduct our boot drives on local roads within our cities and towns that are state owned. I emphasize the word local. We are not seeking to use multiple lanes, limited access roads such as Route 8 or Route 25 in our area.

We ask your serious consideration and approval of this bill. I thank you for listening to my presentation.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much. Since there's no questions, thank you very much for your testimony.

CHARLES STANKYE, JR.: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: We'd like to invite James Donohue of West Hartford.

JAMES DONOHUE: Distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. My name is Attorney James Donohue and I'm here to give testimony in support of House Bill 5277 AN ACT LEGALIZING AND REGULATING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.

I have provided written testimony, but I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify a couple of issues that I've seen here today listening to the testimony.

COMMITTEE

House Bill 5749 could have an adverse effect on insurance premiums in the state. The Insurance Service Office, ISO, the national organization that rates communities for fire and disaster exposure, rates each jurisdiction based upon their updated building codes. Depending on when a community is rated, keeping a code in effect for six years or more will negatively impact its rating.

Homes built with the most current and up-to-date codes have significant savings on energy usage. Research studies have shown that home builders save considerably on energy, negating arguments that newly developed codes unnecessarily increase the cost of construction.

The Building Codes Assistance Project has many reports on this and there's a website link in the testimony that shows if you want more information on that.

Again, the ICC respectfully requests that the Committee carefully consider the negative impact of House Bill 5748.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the bill and I'd be glad to answer any questions or provide additional information.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Roland. Are there any questions from Committee Members? Hearing none, thank you very much for your testimony.

The next presenter is J. R. Romano.

J. R. ROMANO: Hello. I want to thank the Committee for their dedication and service. I know you guys are taking up a lot of bills today.

I originally came to voice my, I guess, approval of House Bill 6015. The mere fact

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that a municipality who's struggling to deal with their financial concerns would look at 9-1-1 as a resource for revenue is just, it's disturbing.

The City of New Britain has a big budget shortfall and they are trying to think of creative ways to generate revenue and it's going to come at the backs of citizens who least can afford it.

Connecticut already pays the highest overall tax in the country in terms of sales tax, gas tax, income tax and all the other taxes we face. This would just be another, I guess, revenue drain for the average individual and I just think that it's appalling that New Britain would do this and I applaud the State Legislature for taking this on and I hope that you support the bill.

Secondly, in hearing the other testimony in regard to the MMA and some of the other testimony today about violence, I find it kind of interesting that the unions are sitting here in opposition to violence when there's hours of footage of union violence to my organization, which is Americans For Prosperity, with box cutters and assaults and no condemnation there.

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But in terms of a legitimate, regulated sport they have some type of opposition on a union grudge. So as I fight for Right to Work in Connecticut, I hope the Committee will remember their opposition to violence.

And thirdly, originally growing up in Derby, Connecticut, I am very familiar with those firehouses and what they do. They do a wonderful job. Whatever those guys want, I would give it to them. I actually grew up with the family that benefitted from the trip to Philadelphia and their daughter's fine.

HB 5278

COMMITTEE

I went to high school with one and college with the other, so whatever those guys want, give it to them. It's a great firehouse and they do a great job in the community.

So I'm under three minutes, so if there's any questions, I'd be more than happy to take them.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, J. R.

J. R. ROMANO: Thank you very much.

REP. DARGAN: Any questions? Hearing none, thank you. The next presenter is Karol Steczkowski.

KAROL STECZKOWSKI: Sorry about the noise. I'm a rookie. My name is Karol Steczkowski. I live in New Britain, 91 Booth Street, to be exact. It's my first time here. I'm not really a politician. I'm just starting to understand this democratic process that I'm involved in today.

HB6015

But basically what's going on is, I mean it's no secret that there's some issues in my town between Mayor Tim O'Brien and some property owners and business owners and things like that.

But what's happened is, you know, there's a saying in Africa. They say when the elephants fight it's the grass that suffers. And you know, the elephants are fighting and I'm one of many blades of grass, unfortunately.

What's happening basically is, you can call them revenue grabs, you know. Democrats will call them one thing. Republicans will call them another, you know. I guess there's, I've noticed that in this building there are very different names for the same thing, sometimes, but.

P14 L20

City of Derby
Fire Department

Commissioner Kelly Curtis

Chief Tomas Lenart Jr.

Assistant Chief Kurt Kemesis

Assistant Chief Michael Goodman

Assistant Chief Robert Laskowski

Proposed H.B. No. 5278

An Act Authorizing Firefighters to Conduct Charitable Fundraising Boot Drives on State Highways

Public Safety and Security Committee
Public Hearing

February 7, 2013

Comments Addressed to "Chair" and Members of the Committee.

My name is Gary M. Parker, Past Chief of the City of Derby Fire Department I am here today to present testimony in support of H.B. Number 5278; An Act Authorizing Firefighters to Conduct Charitable Fundraising Boot Drives on State Highways.

This presentation is made on behalf of the Officers and Members of the Derby Fire Department and as such, I respectfully request this committee to report favorably for the proposed H.B. 5278.

It is the understanding of the Derby Fire Department permitted operations allowed under the proposed bill will exclude all boot drive operations on limited access highways, a reasonable limitation to be accepted without exception.

Rte 34 is a major connector route connecting the I-91/I-95 corridor in New Haven to I-84 in Newtown. Rte 8, a major limited access north/south highway crosses over Rte 34 in the center of our city. To be clear, Boot Drives have been conducted by the Derby Fire Department along State Rte 34 for nearly three decades without incident. Each drive was conducted only after close coordination between the Derby Police Department and the Derby Fire Department establishing the date, hours of operation, acceptable weather conditions and vigilant monitoring of traffic conditions by both agencies. It was only in 2010, the department received notification from the Connecticut Department of Transportation of a prohibition of boot drives in force along state highways. No drives have been conducted since. To repeat, until that time and for nearly three decades prior, no issues were reported to the department regarding this matter. This is attributed to the limitation of Department Boot Drive operations to one of two intersections controlled with existing traffic signals and coordinating the actual fill the boot operations with the automatic cycles of the lights.

Although it is the firefighters listed in the title of this proposed bill, the true benefactors of this act will be the countless individual and group recipients who will benefit with the benevolence generated as a result of it. Additionally, proceeds have been directed to assist fire department members and families of members in distress due to extreme cases of injury or illness. This has been found to be a very effective means in the never-ending task of recruitment and retention of a highly qualified, very dedicated and always available membership.

To conclude, I feel compelled to make the following point. The tradition of the fire service is to protect life and property in that order. Typically our call to service requires response of our resources to remedy a bad situation to make it good. In most cases, we can accomplish that task with hoses, hurst tools and ladders, but sometimes it takes more of a response without the lights, without the sirens. What it takes is the ability to deliver benevolence and that is what we ask you for assistance with today.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary M. Parker, Past Chief
Derby Fire Department

P15 L12

Testimony before the Public Safety and Security Committee
In Support of HB 5278 Authorizing Firefighters To Conduct
Charitable Fund Raising Boot Drives on State Highways
February 7, 2013

Good morning ;

My name is Charles M. Stankye, Jr., a long time member of the Paugasset H & L Co. Of Derby.

Traditionally, firefighters, both volunteers and career, have held boot drives on the local roads throughout the State of Connecticut, unimpeded. The statutes were seldom enforced, if at all, This practice continues to this day.

The proceeds of these boot drives have benefitted numerous charitable and community causes throughout Connecticut.

For many years, my company has been holding a boot drive twice a year on Derby Ave., which runs in front of our fire house. This is a state owned road. Most of the local main roads in our cities and towns are owned by the state.

The drives are held on the Saturday before Memorial Day and on the Saturday after Thanksgiving . Weather permitting. We are on the road between 10 AM and 3 PM.

The safety of all participants is always in the forefront of our activities. Traffic cones are set up to maintain orderly lanes, signs and fire apparatus with flashing lights are set in place far ahead of the collection area and our personel are dressed in turn out gear with traffic vests on. The back up of traffic flow is also monitored and is opened up if it gets to congested.

Donations are usually a couple of dollar bills per vehicle or a hand full of change including some tokens. Occasionally we get a ten or twenty dollar bill. Once we received a store bought apple pie from a woman. And there are some who just drive by.

These boot drives benefit many charitable causes in our community and the surrounding areas. Among the benefactors are organized youth activities (Boy Scouts, Little League, Pop Warner, Biddy Basketball), scholarships for public and parochial schools in Derby, Bridgeport Burn Center and others.

We have purchased life saving and fire fighting equipment such as the first Thermal Imaging Camera in the Naugatuck Valley area. Five years ago, we saved money from several boot drives to purchase and equip an All Terrain Vehicle. This vehicle is very useful in accessing the Derby Greenway, which is a two mile long walking trail. The trail is not readily accesible for a full size motor vehicle to get to someone who is injured or suffers a medical seizure.

The vehicle is also utilized to get firefighters and equipment to brush fires in remote areas of Osbornedale State Park and Witek Park.

A few days before our Spring 2012 boot drive we were informed by the Derby Police Dept. That our permission was revoked because of a violation of state statutes pertaining to highways. To hold the drive, would subject us to arrest. We canceled further boot drives.

A fire company in neighboring Ansonia, has regularly held their boot drive on Division St., which is the border between Ansonia and Derby. The Derby Police instructed them to stay on the Ansonia side or face possible arrest. They had no problem with the Ansonia Police Dept.

Following the tragedy in Sandy Hook, firefighters throughout Connecticut held boot drives for the benefit of the Sandy Hook Fund. They didn't have any hinderance from any police. We would have been out there also, except for the Derby Police directive.

Our situation in Derby is an isolated incident. Boot drives continue to ^{be} held ⁱⁿ Connecticut, on state owned local roads. No one else seems to have the problem.

We would like to be able to conduct our boot drives on local roads within our cities and towns that are state owned. I emphasize the word LOCAL. We are NOT seeking to use multiple lane, limited access roads such as Rte 8 or Rte 25.

We ask your serious consideration and approval of this bill.

Thank you for listening to my presentation



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – February 7, 2013
Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jim Redeker
Department of Transportation

Proposed H.B. 5278 – An Act Authorizing Fireflights to Conduct Charitable Fundraising Boot Drives on State Highways.

While well-intentioned, the Department of Transportation has concerns with Proposed H.B. 5278 and offers the following comments.

Permits for these types of events have been denied in the past since due to concerns that the activity would create unsafe conditions, not be in the best interest of the motoring public and expose the state to potential liability.

Boot drive events have typically been requested at busy signalized intersections on state highways which, if allowed, could cause safety issues for both the collector and the motorist – particularly in situations where a driver stops on a green signal indication to make a donation. Similar concerns exist for this activity at an un-signalized intersection or along an isolated section of state highway.

The Department would be pleased to work with the bill's proponent and the Public Safety and Security Committee to address these concerns as the bill is further considered.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 7, 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 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 a few of the bills on the agenda for today's public hearing.

Proposed House Bill #5278 – AA AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE HIGHWAYS – It is unfortunate that in the 21st Century, a volunteer fire department has to resort to these measures to raise operating funds to serve their community. However, if this is what is needed, we support the efforts that are required to fund that service

Proposed House Bill #5542 – AA REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF HOUSE NUMBERS – We fully support this initiative as we did last year. In times of emergencies, seconds count. In the case of a fire, for every minute that suppression is delayed, the fire quadruples in size. EMS response has only 4-6 minutes to revive a non-breathing person before permanent brain damage starts to occur. The first responders should not have to waste those precious seconds looking for a proper location.

Proposed House Bill #6007 – AA CONCERNING “BLUE ALERTS” – We are not aware of this apparently new concept, but we would only suggest that firefighters be added to this initiative. This would eliminate having to readdress the legislation at a later time.

Proposed House Bill #6011 – AA CREATING A JUVENILE FIRE SAFETY COLLABORATIVE – It is our understanding that the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control is working collaboratively with the Department of Construction Services and the Department of Children & Families in this effort. We support the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control in these very important efforts to combat juvenile fire safety concerns.

Proposed House Bill #6015 – AA PROHIBITING THE CHARGING OF FEES FOR THE DISPATCH OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO 9-1-1 CALLS – We have been in contact with the proponent of this bill and have found that the title of this bill may be misleading. It appears that its intention is to pass legislation that would not allow for a penalizing fee or surcharge for making legitimate calls for service to an E-911 emergency center. We would note that the language of this bill must be narrowly crafted to be sure this bill does its intended task. The public should not be penalized or discouraged for legitimately calling E-911 for emergencies.

Respectfully,

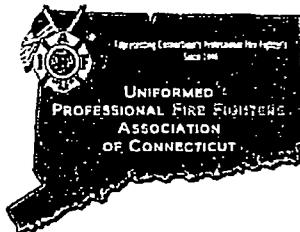
Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
 Connecticut State Firefighters Association

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PAUL J. RAPANAULT
 DIRECTOR
 Legislative/Political Affairs

February 7, 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 UPPFA 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 two bills before you.

House Bill 5278 AN ACT AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE HIGHWAYS requires the Department of Transportation to issue special event permits to fire departments that request them in order for members of the department to conduct "fill the boot" fundraising drives on state highways. Fire fighters are involved in many charitable activities during the course of the year but no cause is more associated with fire fighters than our Muscular Dystrophy "Fill the Boot" campaigns. The IAFF has adopted the MDA as our official charitable activity and our "street" collection activities are most important to these efforts. To the extent that this bill will facilitate DOT cooperation in any way, this bill will be helpful. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

House Bill 5542 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF HOUSE NUMBERS is common sense legislation. The simple act of placing house numbers in a readily viewable place on our residences could be the difference between help arriving at the scene of an emergency in a timely manner or arriving several minutes too late. The three to four minutes it takes emergency crews to drive by an unmarked home and turn around are critical to successfully administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and other time sensitive emergency procedures. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

Thank you for your consideration of these issues and I would be glad to answer any question.

Paul J Rapanault
 DIRECTOR
 Legislative/Political Affairs

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State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(HB5278)

H.B 5728- AN ACT AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE HIGHWAYS.

Public Safety Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
February 7, 2013

I would like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Joan Hartley and Representative Stephen Dargan, the Honorable Vice Chairs Senator Andres Ayala and Representative Joe Verrengia, the Ranking Members Senator Anthony Guglielmo and Representative Jan Giegler, and the entire membership of the Public Safety Committee for their time this afternoon addressing this issue.

I am sorry I cannot be with you today to personally communicate my support for this bill, but thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

This bill will amend title 13b of the general statutes to require the Department of Transportation to issue "special event" permits to requesting fire departments who would like to conduct charitable "fill the boot" drive on state roads. Under existing policies, the Department of Transportation defines what is considered a special event, and a "fill the boot" drive does not qualify for the permit. This proposal seeks to correct that by granting these events eligible for the permit. These fundraising drives are crucial fundraising tools for the fire departments in my communities. Route 34, running through the towns of Derby, Orange, and Woodbridge provides a steady stream of traffic and many willing individuals who are eager to support our volunteer departments. .

By amending these statutes, we will make it easier for these hardworking fire departments to raise much needed funds in today's tough economic climate. The funds raised will benefit the community at large.

I respectfully request your thoughtful review and consideration of this legislative proposal and that you support its passage out of your committee. Please contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Themis Klarides
Deputy House Republican Leader

TK/AL

S - 664

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL. 56
PART 13
3813 - 4129**

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agenda Number 2, dated Thursday, May 30, 2013, to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference in the Senate Journal and the Senate Transcript.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, before moving to a vote on our first Consent Calendar, I have a couple of additional items to add to that Consent Calendar.

First, Madam President, on Calendar Page 23, Calendar 589, House Bill Number 6447.

Madam President, would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And also, Madam President, Calendar -- Calendar Page 29, Calendar 622, House Bill Number 5278.

Would move to place that item also on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, now would ask the Clerk to call the items on the first Consent Calendar, so that we might proceed to a vote on that Consent Calendar.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 5, Calendar 278, Senate Bill 709; Calendar 333, House Bill 5759; Calendar 334, House Bill 6396; Calendar 340, House Bill 6211.

On Page 8, Calendar 357, House Bill 6349 and Calendar 398, Senate Bill 1065.

On Page 11, Calendar 457, House Bill 5564 and Calendar 462, House Bill 5908.

On Page 15, Calendar 516, House Bill 5500; Calendar 521, House Bill 6407.

On Page 19, Calendar 558, House Bill 6340.

Page 21, Calendar 574, House Bill 6534; Calendar 575, House Bill 6562; and Calendar 577, House Bill 6652.

Page 23, Calendar 587, House Bill 6465; Calendar 589, House Bill 6447.

On Page 24, Calendar 599, House Bill 6458.

Page 25, Calendar 602, House Bill 5614.

And on Page 29, Calendar 622, House Bill 5278;
Calendar 625, House Bill 6624.

Page 39, Calendar 223, Senate Bill 954 and Calendar
227, Senate Bill 819.

And on Page 46, Calendar 100, Senate Bill 273 and
Calendar 137, Senate Bill 837.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote and the
machine will be open on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Members to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been
ordered in the Senate on today's first Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

All members have voted, all members have voted.

The machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's first Consent Calendar:

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)