

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-157

SB120

Senate	1243, 1362-1363	3
Public Safety & Security	12-13, 14-15, 92-96, 98-99, 233, 238-239, 241, 243, 244	17
House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400		20

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
PART 4
1033 - 1367**

On calendar page 4, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 120,
I'd like to mark that item go and place that item on
our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 33,
Calendar 90, Senate Bill 101, I'd like to place that
item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 33,
Calendar 116, Senate Bill 26, I'd like to mark that
item go and place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 11,
Calendar 354, Senate Bill 214, I'd like to mark that
item go and place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, will the clerk please call the items on our Consent Calendar for a vote, immediately following?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. We'll give you a moment. Get the bills in order.

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 459, House Joint Resolution Number 173, page 2, Calendar 460, House Joint Resolution Number 174. Also on page 2, Calendar 461, House Joint Resolution Number 175; and House Joint Resolution 176. Page 4, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 120. Page 6, Calendar 266, Senate Bill 343. On page 9, Calendar 329, Senate Bill 417. Page 10, Calendar 347, Senate Bill 342. Page 11, Calendar 354, Senate Bill 214 and Senate Bill 255. Page 22, Calendar 446, House Bill 5428. On page 33, Calendar 90, Senate Bill 101, Page 33, Calendar 116, Senate Bill 26. Page 33, Calendar 88, Senate Bill 115 and also on page 33, Calendar 115, Senate Bill 25. Page 39, Calendar 282, Senate Bill 305. Page 40, Calendar 291, Senate Bill 348, and on page 41, Calendar 348, Senate Bill 295.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

cf
SENATE

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April 27, 2016

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate
on today's Consent Calendar. Immediate Roll Call
has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kennedy.

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 Consent Calendar.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Gerratana for any personal announcements or privileges.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

For purposes of an announcement, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 1
1 – 402**

**2016
INDEX**

These sections require any law enforcement unit from which such person is separated, if they become aware that the person has applied to another law enforcement agency, to inform the agency of such dismissal, resignation, or retirement. Although POST is usually notified of an officer separation, POST is usually not notified if the above circumstances apply. Since the conduct resulting in separation from the original agency may require or result in decertification, both the POST council and desk believe that POST should be notified.

This would also provide another valuable source of information for perspective hiring departments to consider while -- when conducting the background investigation of any candidate. So thank you very much, Chief Clarity and I are available to answer any questions you may have.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Thank you Commissioner, I appreciate it. Does anybody have any questions? All set, thank you.

COMMISSIONER SCHRIRO: All right.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Next up is Commissioner Melody Currey.

COMMISSIONER CURREY: Good morning Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Good morning Commissioner, how are you?

COMMISSIONER CURREY: Chairman Dargan and Members of the Committee. I am Melody Currey, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services and I want to thank you for raising SENATE BILL 120, AN ACT

SB 121

SB 124

SB 238

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avg/jh

PUBLIC SAFETY

March 1, 2016
11:00 A.M.

CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS
AND FIRE INSPECTORS and SENATE BILL 121, AN ACT
APPEALING CERTAIN STATUTES RELATED TO MOVING
PICTURES ON BEHALF OF THE AGENCY.

In respect of your time, I'll quickly summarize.
Senate Bill 120 is an act concerning the authority
of the fire -- deputy fire marshals and fire
inspectors amended by statute to permit local fire
marshals to authorize local deputy fire marshals to
ins -- or inspectors to issue a citation as
described in the Connecticut State Fire Prevention
Code.

The statute already allows local fire marshals to
authorize their deputies and inspectors to issue
permits and orders as well as to certify compliance
with the fire code safety code. The local fire
marshals asked the Office of the State Fire Marshal
to seek this statutory change allowing local fire
marshals to delegate the issuance of citations to
deputies and inspectors will help improve municipal
operations.

SENATE BILL 121, AN ACT REPEALING CERTAIN PROCESSES
RELATED TO MOVING PICTURES proposes the repeal of
several statutes in chapter 531 dealing with motion
picture theaters as obsolete or unnecessary. Some of
these statutes relate to the requirements for fire
safety of motion picture theaters that are
unnecessary because of state fire safety and
building and fire prevention codes all contain
construction and operational requirements for motion
picture theaters and their associated auditoriums as
well as every other public occupancy.

There is no need to repeat these requirements in statutes and there is every reason to avoid the risk of inconsistent requirements. Other statutes related to handling of photographic film, i.e. the ribbon-type film displayed on screens throughout projectors using bulbs including, in particular, the high flammable nitrocellulose film.

This film is no longer used in the industry and these provisions are obsolete. Please note that SENATE BILL 121 does not affect the statutory requirements for motion pictures that are still germane to the industry are enforced by local police departments. For instance, the prohibition on X-rated films, the display of films rating required, and the unlawful use of recorded devices film piracy.

The Committee has my full testimony on these two bills as well as submitted comments from some of the other bills on today's agendas. I have the State Fire Marshal, Bill Abbott, and the State Building Inspector, Joe Cassidy, with me for questions the Committee may have. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide these comments. I'd be happy to take any questions.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Steve Dargan.

SB120
REP. DARGAN (115TH): Thank you. Bill and Joe, if you could just comment a little bit on the Deputy Fire Marshal and Fire Inspectors? I know over the years have been some concerns from other legislators and I know that the City of Bridgeport too has come forward with some bills on relationship to fire marshals on annual inspections that they have been not been able to get to because of man power within

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avg/jh

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the specific municipality. So in my (inaudible 00:18:06:11) understanding that this will help that local Fire Marshal's Office dealing with those annual inspections and by doing that they, underneath the state statute, would be able to issue citations? Am I incorrect in that assessment?

JOE CASSIDY: On SENATE BILL 121, what that does is it allows the deputy fire marshals, the inspectors, and such issue the citations that now only the fire marshal can issue. So I think that was an oversight when we did the code. It was supposed to be all. All certified people should be able to do that, but the way it got put in was just the local fire marshal so that, kind of, ties their hands if an inspector's out on the road and finds let's say exit doors chained or blocked or something like that. He's not able to issue a citation to get that removed right away, so he would have to go back to the fire marshal, get confirmation from the fire marshal, he'd have to come out and take a look at it so this just, kind of, cleans that up.

SB 120

REP. DARGAN (115TH): Okay, thank you for that clarification.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Thank you Representative. Commissioner, I have a question. You've commented on SENATE BILL 238 and SENATE BILL 121, but I also have in my packet 124 and HOUSE BILL 5278 that we have testimony on. Did you care to take this time to comment on those or are you just submitting testimony?

COMMISSIONER CURREY: I really thought it was in best interest of the committee simply to have my

committee in crafting the original Act and we would hate to see it weakened in any way. I'd be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Thank you very much for your testimony. Any questions from our Public Safety Committee? Tim, thank you very much for your testimony.

TIM PHELAN: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): I have two lists, but I'm trying to get rid of one. I have Frank Ricci and Bobbie Doyle. Are they available? If you'd state your name for the record?

FRANK RICCI: Frank Ricci. I'm President of New Haven Firefighters. I'm also a Contributing Editor to *Fire Engineering Magazine*.

ROBERT DOYLE: Robert Doyle, Fire Marshal for the city of New Haven.

FRANK RICCI: Honorable board, I'd like to talk to you about RAISED BILL NUMBER 120. While I believe that the legislative intent of the bill is a very positive and good thing allowing inspectors and deputy fire marshals to issue citations. When I say Inspectors, I mean fire inspectors to issue citations. The way that the law works now is the actual citation can only come from the fire marshal. So in an economical sense and a public safety sense, it makes sense to have the entire fire marshal's office, who is trained and certified, to be able to issue the citation.

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avg/jh

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The problem with the bill is a technicality. If you look in parenthesis on the bill there taking out the word "certified". Now, I understand the intent of that is because of the way the state certification for fire marshals work is there's no technical certification for a deputy fire marshal. However, I know pretty much factually know, that the cities are looking to exploit this language if put forth in its current form as a loophole to allow building inspectors to issue cortication -- to issue citations.

So in the current form, if you took out certified, you run the risk of New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury, and other towns, in a sense, deputizing their building inspectors, their plumbing inspectors, electrical inspectors to issue citations.

It's kind of ironic that we sit here in Hartford where 167 individuals, are citizens, perished in one of the tragic fires in our countries history. We don't want a building inspector issuing fire citations. We want someone who is trained and certified, who can recognize what public safety issues are at hand and then mitigate them properly.

ROBERT DOYLE: Representatives, thank you for allowing me to speak today. Again, my name is Robert Doyle, the Fire Marshal for the City of New Haven. I'd like to show support of this bill segwaying off of what Frank Ricci had stated. The members, inspectors, and fire marshals in the state are all properly trained through the state under the eyes of doing fire inspections, investigations, enforcing fire prevention, and public education.

All our members are able to work closely together through the education -- continuing education of 90

hours every 3 years. To have some other entity take care of that would do nothing but a disservice for the public and I strongly recommend that you do not allow that part of it. Thank you.

FRANK RICCI: The loophole in this bill could be closed very simply by just moving the parenthesis down to other inspectors and investigators would then allow the intent of this bill to go forward in the way it was proposed by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Thank you very much. Representative Miner, you had a question?

REP. MINER (66TH): Thank you Mr. Chairman. So is there a certification process for a Deputy Fire Marshal?

FRANK RICCI: No, there isn't. There is -- and Bobbie, can you explain the three certifications?

ROBERT DOYLE: The three certifications; everybody goes to the same exact training, Fire Marshal Certification Class. In that class you are certified as a fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector. Everybody has a different job to do within the offices. Our city, we break things down into different job requirements. Other cities just have one fire marshal and they're able to handle it.

REP. MINER (66TH): And so if -- so if I understand you correctly, there's no one in the state of Connecticut operating under the title of "Deputy Fire Marshal" that has not received training equal to a fire marshal?

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ROBERT DOYLE: That is correct.

REP. MINER (66TH): So as long as we can preserve -- however it's done. I'm not sure that your way of doing it actually gets to what we're trying to do. I think what -- I think what the bill tries -- wants to try and do is to expand the opportunity where a deputy fire marshal can actually provide the citation without having to go to the Fire Marshal. So I don't have to go to Kurt to get him to sign my citation. I can actually issue it while I'm there, right?

ROBERT DOYLE: That is correct.

REP. MINER (66TH): All right, so if we can fix that piece of this bill the underlying piece, which is the citation, you want in there, but you're not interested in having the town of Litchfield have its plumbing inspector become the fire marshal?

ROBERT DOYLE: That is correct.

REP. MINER (66TH): Gotcha, thank you.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Thank you for your testimony. Any further questions? Representative Dargan?

REP. DARGAN (115TH): Frank, it's good seeing you. Just for full disclosure, Bob and I -- Bob Doyle, the Fire Marshal of New Haven and I are related, so in case anybody says I didn't disclose that. I just wanted -- you can tell by our hairlines how we're related.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Bob, my condolences. I'm glad you don't admit that publically. Thank you very much for your testimony gentleman. Have a great day.

FRANK RICCI: Thank you.

ROBERT DOYLE: Thank you.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD): Next up we have David Martin from Colchester and Ted Scroll from Wethersfield, after David Martin.

DAVE MARTIN: Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is David Martin. I am the past President of Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company and I'm before you today to speak on support of RAISED BILL NUMBER 5277, AN ACT EXTENDING THE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

Many small communities, as you know, around the nation and Connecticut are finding it difficult to recruit new volunteers into the field of emergency services. This bill would go a long way in the area of retention of emergency service responders. It would allow communities to finally have a way of thanking volunteers who give 20 plus years of dedication to their towns residents and visitors at a very affordable cost. It would give new recruits a reason to stick around in a particular community a little longer and reduce the number of turnovers; something not uncommon today.

I would just offer for the recorded record that RAISED BILL 5277 be amended to include in addition to volunteer firefighters, the included disciplines of emergency medical technicians and fire police

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REP. DARGAN (115TH): Any further questions from Committee Members? Thank you very much for your testimony.

DAVE MARTIN: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN (115TH): Next presenter is Ted Troll. I don't know. I don't see Ted. Kevin Kowalski?

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Representative Dargan, is it possible to have my colleague here also join us? He's the next one on the list.

REP. DARGAN (115TH): Sure, Keith Flood, yes, please.

KEVIN KOWALSKI: Good afternoon Public Safety Subcommittee, thank you very much for this opportunity to speak before you today. I have several bills I'd like to touch upon from the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association. My name is Kevin Kowalski. I serve as a Fire Marshal in Simsbury and I'm also part of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association representing all the fire marshals and deputies.

The first bill I'd like to speak about is SENATE BILL 120, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL AND INSPECTORS. You've heard a lot of testimony today. We are certainly in favor of this as it will allow the deputies and fire inspectors to sign the citation of the very violations that we can do it with, but they don't have to go and get the fire marshal, bring them back, and sign the citations directly. They'll be able to do it by themselves. One minor change that

SB 124
HB 5272

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we do want to do is as our colleagues said a little bit earlier, there's a bit of an issue with certified versus non-certified and other inspectors as defined.

It could be any type of inspector out there. It could be the food inspector, could be taxed with doing this. So we just wanted to make sure it's clear in the statute on how and when that they can sign the citation. So we're working with DAS to come up with a conclusive answer so that everyone is good with it and hopefully this committee will take a look at that.

The next one is SENATE BILL 124, WHICH IS AN ACT REQUIRING SMOKE DETECTORS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS and we are certainly in favor of this, strongly in favor of removing the year 1978 from the statute. It's been many years that we adopted this smoke detector legislation and we found that back in the 80's when smoke detectors were \$150, people that had homes at the time and retroactively had been very expensive for them to put them in, now they're \$7 a piece and certainly a vast majority of Fire Departments are actually giving the smoke detectors away to their home owners.

Unfortunately though, when we get into situations where people rent their homes or we have a two-family home where you're renting it to the next door neighbor, right now if it was built prior to 1978, not required to have a smoke detector. So we certainly want to take that away and have that every home should have a smoke detector and be safe in the state of Connecticut.

B2



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

163 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Senate Bill 120**An Act Concerning the Authority of Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors****Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey****Public Safety & Security Committee****March 1, 2016**

Good afternoon Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Zupkus, and distinguished members of the Public Safety & Security Committee. I want to thank the Committee for raising this concept on behalf of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Senate Bill 120, An Act Concerning the Authority of Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors, amends C.G.S. § 29-298 (d) to permit local fire marshals to authorize local deputy fire marshals or inspectors to issue citations as described in the Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code. The statute already allows local fire marshals to authorize their deputies and inspectors to issue permits and orders, as well as to certify compliance with fire safety codes. Local fire marshals asked the Office of the State Fire Marshal to seek this statutory change to allow fire marshals to authorize to their deputies and inspectors to sign citations as well. Allowing local fire marshals to delegate this task to deputies and inspectors will help improve municipal operations.

In addition, the proposal makes a technical modification by deleting the word "certified" before deputy fire marshals. There is no certification process for deputy fire marshals; accordingly, describing deputy fire marshals as "certified" is inaccurate. I should note that we suggested one technical deletion of the word certified in line 4; however, after discussions with my staff, LCO has identified another section - C.G.S. §29-297 -- where the word "certified" should also be deleted. The omission of the word "certified" is simply a technical oversight that should have been addressed in past legislative sessions and an oversight on our part.

We hope that you will support this bill.



The Connecticut Fire Marshals Assoc.

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

Testimony Before the Public Safety & Security Committee

March 1, 2016

S.B. No. 120 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS AND FIRE INSPECTORS

S.B. No. 124 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING SMOKE DETECTORS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

S.B. No. 238 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES REGARDING AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS IN NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

HB. No. 5272 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION AND WARNING EQUIPMENT IN BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

HB. No. 5278 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS DESIGNED TO BE OCCUPIED BY TWO FAMILIES

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Kevin Kowalski I have been in the fire service for the last 40 years and Fire Marshal of Simsbury for the last 30 years.



The Connecticut Fire Marshals Assoc.

10A

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

The CFMA supports SB 120, An Act Concerning the Authority of Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors. This bill will allow the Deputy FM and/or Fire Inspector to give written citations for fire code violations. Both the Local Fire Marshal and State Fire Marshal have oversight in this area. Current statute requires the Fire Marshal only can sign the citation. This is equal to allowing only the police chief to write traffic tickets.

The CFMA supports SB 124, An Act Requiring Smoke Detectors in Residential Buildings. This bill will remove the grandfathered date of 1978 that was legislated in the late 70's when smoke detectors were required in new 1 and 2 family homes. At that time, smoke detectors were new technology and costly, sometimes over \$100. Smoke detectors are now much more inexpensive, as low as \$5.00 and in many towns, the Fire Department gives them away.

Smoke detectors have saved many lives since they were required but they are only currently required in homes that were built after 1978. It is time to remove the 1978 date to require that all homes are equipped with smoke detectors and to be consistent with current code.

Lines 14-15 in this proposal exclude one and two family homes from the smoke detector mandate. We do not support that section and request that it be addressed by the Committee to ensure that all homes, regardless of building date, are required to have smoke detectors. We also do not support annual inspection of 1 and 2 family homes. We will continue to help with inspecting these homes only upon request and, or complaint.

The CFMA supports HB 5278 and SB 238, both regarding residential sprinkler installation. HB 5272 would allow a local municipal option for sprinklers in new residential dwellings. SB 238 would mandate residential sprinklers in new two-family homes.

Testimony of the
Connecticut Coalition Of Property Owners

Re: SB 120 AAC The Authority Of Deputy Fire Marshals And Fire
Inspectors
And
SB 119 AAC Establishing A Task Force To Study Hoarding.

Before the Legislature's Committee On Public Safety And Security
 Tuesday, March 1, 2016
 11:00 AM, Room 2E, Legislative Office Building

Good morning. My name is John Souza and I am the President of the Connecticut Coalition Of Property Owners ("CCOPO") and a full-time landlord. CCOPO is the largest property owner association in Connecticut for midsize and small landlords. CCOPO has affiliate chapters in Bridgeport, Enfield, Stamford, Windham and West Hartford and the CT Association of Real Estate Investors. Collectively CCOPO members own thousands of rental units throughout Connecticut.

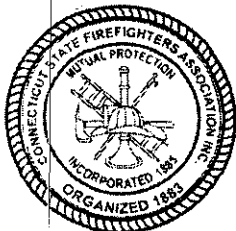
CCOPO cannot support SB 120 AAC The Authority Of Deputy Fire
Marshals And Fire Inspectors.

CCOPO recognizes that fire marshals often need help to perform routine mandated fire inspections. However SB 120 would permit each "*deputy fire marshal, fire inspector or other inspector or investigator*" to issue citations. Furthermore those same individuals would no longer be required to be "*certified.*"

CCOPO believes that the expertise and qualifications of a fire marshal are important to the public. The ability of non-certified individuals, of unspecified qualifications and experience to be able to issue citations goes far beyond assisting with necessary inspections.

CCOPO believes that the ability to issues citations should stay with the fire marshals and such other certified personnel as the current statute requires. Such a broad expansion as called for in SB 120 is subject to abuse and is not in the public interest.

For this reason CCOPO does not support SB 120.



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 1, 2016

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Senator Timothy Larson, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
 Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
 Senator Tony Guglielmo, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee
 Representative Lezlye Zupkus, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee

Members of the Public Safety & Security Committee,

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. We support the listed bills.

Raised Senate Bill #120, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS AND FIRE INSPECTORS

Raised Senate Bill #238, AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES REGARDING AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS IN NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Raised House Bill #5272, AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION AND WARNING EQUIPMENT IN BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Raised House Bill #5276, AN ACT REQUIRING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIALING 9-1-1 ON OR ADJACENT TO CERTAIN MULTILINE TELEPHONES

Raised House Bill #5277, AN ACT EXTENDING THE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Raised House Bill #5278, AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS DESIGNED TO BE OCCUPIED BY TWO FAMILIES

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
 Connecticut State Firefighters Association

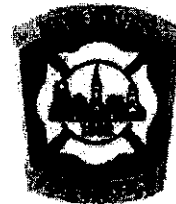
OM/NZ/2016



Toni Harp
Mayor

Ralph Black
Interim Chief

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICE
Office Of The Fire Marshal



Robert Doyle
Fire Marshal
952 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 374
New Haven, Connecticut 06502
Tel. (203) 946-6232 Fax. (203) 946-8383

February 29, 2016

SB 119

Dear Honorable Chairs and Members of the Public Safety Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on several items before you.

We would like to offer our strong support for SB 120 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS AND FIRE INSPECTORS. Currently, only the Fire Marshal is statutorily empowered to write citations. While conducting the required annual inspection, or upon a complaint filed within our office, if the Inspectors were to come upon 1 or more of the violations under section 29-291a-10a. Enforcement by Citations. The said inspector would have to contact the Fire Marshal to respond to the address to issue the Citation. This action constrains the Fire Marshal and eliminates him from his other duties and obligations.

By issuing citations, we can mandate fire code violators to become compliant in the name of life safety, and in the process would increase municipal revenue.

We would also like to raise a concern regarding SB 124 AN ACT REQUIRING SMOKE DETECTORS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS. We know that smoke detectors are a vital part of a home security plan and encourage every resident and owner to use them. However, we are concerned about the means of inspection and enforcement. If this state statute is to mean that fire marshals are mandated to inspect adequately, or even cursorily, every residential building for smoke detectors and safety, we would encourage you to oppose it. The scale of such an undertaking, particularly in larger cities, would be simply unfeasible, due to the ratio of inspectors to properties.

In fact, even meeting current requirements for smoke detectors in larger cities is difficult without an incredible investment of resources.