



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 388

February Session, 2000

Substitute Senate Bill No. 463

Senate, April 3, 2000

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning College Dormitory Safety.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. The State Fire Marshal and the Commissioner of Higher
2 Education shall jointly study the need for a change to the State Fire
3 Code for college dormitories. They shall survey public and
4 independent institutions of higher education to determine the number
5 of dormitories that do not have automatic fire extinguishing systems.
6 The State Fire Marshal and the commissioner shall report, in
7 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the study,
8 including any recommendations for changes to the code and an
9 implementation schedule for such changes, to the joint standing
10 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
11 relating to education and public safety by January 1, 2001.

12 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) The Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State
13 University System shall include provision for the installation of
14 automatic fire extinguishing systems in residential facilities at the

15 institutions under its jurisdiction in its facility planning and capital
16 expenditure budget priorities pursuant to subsection (b) of section
17 10a-89 of the general statutes.

18 (b) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall
19 include provision for the installation of automatic fire extinguishing
20 systems in residential facilities at the university in its facility and
21 capital expenditure budget priorities pursuant to subsection (b) of
22 section 10a-104 of the general statutes.

23 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

ED Committee Vote: Yea 30 Nay 0 JFS

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Yes

Affected Agencies: Department of Higher Education, State Fire Marshall, Connecticut State University, University of Connecticut

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill requires Connecticut State University (CSU) and the University of Connecticut (UConn) to install fire extinguisher systems in residential facilities that do not currently have them. It is anticipated that these costs will be incorporated into these agencies' respective facility planning and capital expenditure budgets.

In addition to setting an October 1, 2004 completion deadline, the original language of the bill placed this fire extinguisher system requirement on those dormitories that were more than four stories. For CSU, these costs were estimated at \$5-7 million for 8 buildings system wide and for UConn, the cost was estimated at \$29 million for 13 buildings. The current language of the bill, which removes the deadline and the "four story" specification and simply provides that such systems be installed in all residential facilities, results in a potential indeterminate increase to these original figures.

It should be noted that CSU bonding for residential facilities is generally done through Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Association (CHEFA). Student fees are based on the debt service related to these bonds. Also, in FY 98, UConn instituted an infrastructure maintenance fee.

Finally, costs and increased workload associated with surveying all colleges in the state with regard to fire extinguisher systems in dormitories are absorbable within normal agency resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 463

AN ACT CONCERNING COLLEGE DORMITORY SAFETY.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the state fire marshal and the higher education commissioner to survey all college dormitories to learn how many lack automatic fire extinguisher systems. By January 1, 2001, they must report their findings, including any recommended changes to the state Fire Safety Code and a schedule for implementing the changes, to the Education and Public Safety committees. The bill also requires the trustees of the Connecticut State University System and the University of Connecticut to plan and budget to install the systems in residential facilities. It is unclear whether the term "residential facilities" includes other sleeping quarters in addition to dormitories.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 0