



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 59

January Session, 2001

House Bill No. 5431

House of Representatives, March 26, 2001

The Committee on Public Safety reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.

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

1 (NEW) (a) The owner of a building subject to the Fire Safety Code
2 shall install carbon monoxide detectors in such building in accordance
3 with the provisions of the regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

4 (b) The State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee
5 shall amend the Fire Safety Code, in accordance with the provisions of
6 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to prescribe requirements and
7 specifications for the installation and use of carbon monoxide detectors
8 in new or existing structures that are subject to such code. Such
9 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the location, power
10 requirements and standards for carbon monoxide detectors, (2)
11 exemptions for buildings that are solely dependent on systems that do
12 not emit carbon monoxide, (3) a specified time after the effective date
13 of the regulations for compliance in existing buildings or in buildings
14 under construction, and (4) provisions for compliance in any building

15 for which a building permit is issued on or after the effective date of
16 such regulations.

PS *Joint Favorable*

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:** Significant Cost (beginning FY 03)
- Affected Agencies:** Department of Public Safety, Human Services Agencies, Various Other State Agencies
- Municipal Impact:** Potential Significant Cost (beginning FY 03):
STATE MANDATE

Explanation

State Impact:

This bill would result in significant additional costs to the state and in potential significant costs to municipalities beginning in FY 03. It is an un-funded State Mandate on municipalities. It would also result in costs to the Department of Public Safety of \$10,000 to \$30,000 in FY 02. The bill requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all buildings subject to the State Fire Safety Code, except one- and two-family private dwellings and buildings used for manufacturing. This would result in additional costs to all state agencies that have care and control of buildings (36 state agencies) that would be significant, especially for human services agencies. It would also result in costs to municipalities and to the state housing authorities that could be significant.

The bill requires the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee (both in the Department of Public Safety) to

adopt regulations specifying the installation and use of carbon monoxide detectors. It is anticipated that the department will require the use of an engineering and building consultant at the cost of from \$10,000 to \$30,000. It is estimated that the development of specifications will take at least one year, so that installation costs would not be incurred until sometime in FY 03.

The cost of carbon monoxide detectors ranges from \$35 to \$50 for battery-operated units, up to \$200 for hard-wired units. The number required for each building, and therefore the actual costs, would depend on the regulations adopted. It is likely that the regulations will require the use of hard-wired units for multi-story, public, dormitory and apartment buildings.

There are over 1,800 state-owned buildings under the care and control of 36 state agencies. The state agencies that have the most buildings include the University of Connecticut, the Judicial Department, the Department of Correction, State University, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety. These agencies would incur significant costs to install carbon monoxide detectors in all of their buildings.

In addition, there are thousands of buildings such as group homes operated by private providers that could require carbon monoxide detectors. It is anticipated that these costs would be passed on to the state. Estimated costs for a few agencies are shown below.

Department of Mental Retardation: This agency has 139 state-operated group homes of which 80% currently have carbon monoxide detectors. To install the detectors in the remaining state operated group homes is anticipated to result in a cost of \$7,600 (28 detectors at a cost of \$200 each). This takes into consideration that an estimated 35% of the homes may require at least two detectors. It should be noted that currently the department is in the process (on a quarterly

basis) of providing for the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all state-operated group homes. The cost associated with this is included in the anticipated budgetary resources of the department. The campus units, such as Southbury Training School and the regional facilities mostly operate a boiler system in a separate facility from the residence. The department also funds group homes that are operated by private providers. There are approximately 500 of these group homes statewide. It is unknown at this time how many of the privately operated group homes currently have carbon monoxide detectors. Assuming that there are currently no carbon monoxide detectors and that at least 35% of the group homes would require at least two detectors, the cost is estimated at \$135,000. To the extent that these costs incurred by the private providers are reimbursed by the state as part of the residential contract, the state may incur this \$135,000 cost.

Department of Economic and Community Development: The state currently supports approximately 16,000 housing units that require carbon monoxide detectors under this bill. It is not known how many of these units currently have installed detectors. Assuming that detectors have to be installed in all 16,000 units, the bill would result in increased costs between \$800,000 and \$3,200,000. Costs could be lower if the regulations include any building exemptions and could be higher if the regulations require more than one detector depending on the housing unit configuration.

Department of Social Services: The department currently funds services at: 1. Private nursing homes (20,000 beds in 280 homes), 2. Day care centers (20,000 slots in a variety of placement situations), 3. Homes for the aged (2,850 beds in 105 homes), and 4. Assorted other living arrangements that might be required to install carbon monoxide detectors under the provisions of this bill. It is not currently known how many of these units may already have carbon monoxide detectors installed. To the extent that the private costs of installing detectors are

passed on to the state through any adjustments in Department of Social Services' reimbursement rates, a significant cost to the state could result.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department currently funds residential placements at approximately 20 private group homes that may be required to install carbon monoxide detectors under the provisions of this bill. The department also places many individuals in private apartment complexes. To the extent that the private costs of installing detectors are passed on to the state through any adjustments in reimbursement expenses, a cost to the state may result.

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities would also incur costs for installing carbon monoxide detectors that could be significant, depending on their number of municipal buildings and the regulations that are adopted. Since the costs could be significant, it is an un-funded State Mandate on municipalities.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5431

AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires owners of new or existing buildings subject to the State Fire Safety Code to install carbon monoxide detectors in them in accordance with regulations the state fire marshal and Codes and Standards Committee must adopt. The code applies to all buildings except one- and two-family private dwellings and to all premises except those used for manufacturing.

The bill requires the committee and state fire marshal to amend the code to prescribe requirements and specifications for installing and using carbon monoxide detectors. The regulations must include (1) power requirements and standards for the detectors and where they must be located; (2) exemptions for buildings solely dependent on systems that do not emit carbon monoxide; (3) a specified time after the effective date of the regulations for compliance in existing buildings or in buildings under construction; and (4) provisions for compliance in any building for which a building permit is issued on or after the effective date of the regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 13 Nay 8