



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 62

LCO No. 558

00558_____PS_

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Introduced by:
(PS)

**AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROTECTION FOR
VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE MEMBERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 5-249 of the general statutes, as amended by
2 section 1 of public act 03-249, is repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

4 (a) Any state employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or
5 member of a volunteer ambulance service or company (1) may, with
6 the authorization of such employee's appointing authority, be
7 permitted to leave work in order to respond to fire calls or ambulance
8 calls during such employee's regular hours of employment without
9 loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulation,
10 or (2) shall be permitted to respond to such calls prior to reporting for
11 work without such prior authorization and without loss of pay,
12 vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulation, provided in
13 either case, if requested by such employee's appointing authority, such
14 employee submits a written statement from the chief of the volunteer
15 fire department or the medical director or chief administrator of the
16 volunteer ambulance service or company verifying that such employee

17 responded to a fire or ambulance call and specifying the date, time and
18 duration of such response.

19 (b) Any state employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer
20 of the American Red Cross may, with the authorization of such
21 employee's supervisor, be granted a leave not to exceed fourteen days
22 in each year to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the
23 American Red Cross, upon the request of the American Red Cross,
24 without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime
25 accumulation.

26 (c) Any state employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or
27 member of a volunteer ambulance service or company may, with the
28 authorization of such employee's appointing authority, be allowed to
29 attend training sessions or drills during such employee's regular hours
30 of employment without loss of pay, overtime accumulation or sick
31 leave.

32 (d) Any state employee who is an active member of a volunteer
33 canine search and rescue team may, with the authorization of such
34 employee's supervisor, be permitted to leave work in order to respond
35 to search and rescue calls during such employee's regular hours of
36 employment without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned
37 overtime accumulation, or (2) shall be permitted to respond to such
38 calls prior to reporting for work without such prior authorization and
39 without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime
40 accumulation, provided in either case, if requested by such employee's
41 supervisor, such employee submits a written statement from the chief
42 of the police department verifying that such employee responded to a
43 search and rescue call and specifying the date, time and duration of
44 such response.

45 Sec. 2. Section 12-81w of the general statutes is repealed and the
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

47 The legislative body of any municipality may establish, by

48 ordinance, a program to provide property tax relief for the nonsalaried
49 local director of civil preparedness and for individuals who volunteer
50 their services as a firefighter, emergency medical technician,
51 paramedic, civil preparedness staff, member of a canine search and
52 rescue team or ambulance driver in the municipality. Such tax relief
53 may provide either (1) an abatement of up to one thousand dollars in
54 property taxes due for any fiscal year, or (2) an exemption applicable
55 to the assessed value of real or personal property up to an amount
56 equal to the quotient of one million dollars divided by the mill rate, in
57 effect at the time of assessment, expressed as a whole number of
58 dollars per one thousand dollars of assessed value. Any ordinance may
59 authorize interlocal agreements for the purpose of providing property
60 tax relief to such volunteers who live in one municipality but volunteer
61 their services in another municipality.

62 Sec. 3. Section 53a-167c of the general statutes, as amended by
63 section 1 of public act 03-6 and section 126 of public act 03-19, is
64 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
65 *October 1, 2004*):

66 (a) A person is guilty of assault of public safety or emergency
67 medical personnel when, with intent to prevent a reasonably
68 identifiable peace officer, firefighter or employee of an emergency
69 medical service organization, as defined in section 53a-3, emergency
70 room physician or nurse, member of a canine search and rescue team
71 or canine in such team, employee of the Department of Correction,
72 employee or member of the Board of Parole, probation officer,
73 employee of the judicial branch assigned to provide pretrial secure
74 detention and programming services to juveniles accused of the
75 commission of a delinquent act, employee of the Department of
76 Children and Families assigned to provide direct services to children
77 and youth in the care or custody of the department or employee of a
78 municipal police department assigned to provide security at the police
79 department's lockup and holding facility from performing his or her
80 duties, and while such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician,

81 nurse, member of a canine search and rescue team or canine, member
82 or probation officer is acting in the performance of his or her duties, (1)
83 such person causes physical injury to such peace officer, firefighter,
84 employee, physician, nurse, member of a canine search and rescue
85 team or canine, member or probation officer, or (2) such person throws
86 or hurls, or causes to be thrown or hurled, any rock, bottle, can or
87 other article, object or missile of any kind capable of causing physical
88 harm, damage or injury, at such peace officer, firefighter, employee,
89 physician, nurse, member of a canine search and rescue team or
90 canine, member or probation officer, or (3) such person uses or causes
91 to be used any mace, tear gas or any like or similar deleterious agent
92 against such peace officer, firefighter, employee, physician, nurse,
93 member of a canine search and rescue team or canine, member or
94 probation officer, or (4) such person throws or hurls, or causes to be
95 thrown or hurled, any paint, dye or other like or similar staining,
96 discoloring or coloring agent or any type of offensive or noxious
97 liquid, agent or substance at such peace officer, firefighter, employee,
98 physician, nurse, member of a canine search and rescue team or
99 canine, member or probation officer, or (5) such person throws or
100 hurls, or causes to be thrown or hurled, any bodily fluid including, but
101 not limited to, urine, feces, blood or saliva at such peace officer,
102 firefighter, employee, physician, nurse, member of a canine search and
103 rescue team or canine, member or probation officer.

104 (b) Assault of public safety or emergency medical personnel is a
105 class C felony. If any person who is confined in an institution or facility
106 of the Department of Correction is sentenced to a term of
107 imprisonment for assault of an employee of the Department of
108 Correction under this section, such term shall run consecutively to the
109 term for which the person was serving at the time of the assault.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

Sec. 3	October 1, 2004
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Statement of Purpose:

To extend the protection and benefits accorded other emergency volunteers to members of canine search and rescue teams who give unselfishly of their time, energy and their own resources.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]