



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 62**

February Session, 2004

\* SB00062PS\_JUD030404 \*

**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2 section 1 of public act 03-249, is repealed and the following is  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 or 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 or rescue call and specifying the date, time and duration of such  
44 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.

110 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) Any individual who is a  
111 member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team may travel on a  
112 train or on any other mode of public transportation, and may enter or  
113 visit any other place of public accommodation which caters or offers its  
114 services or facilities or goods to the general public, including, but not  
115 limited to, any public building, inn, restaurant, hotel, motel, tourist  
116 cabin, place of amusement, resort or any facility of any such public  
117 accommodation, accompanied by the canine member of such team,  
118 and he may keep such canine with him at all times in any such public

119 accommodation or facility thereof at no extra charge, provided such  
120 team is engaged in a search or rescue operation and such canine shall  
121 be in the direct custody of such individual and shall be wearing a  
122 harness or orange-colored identification. No such individual shall be  
123 charged any fee not applicable alike to all guests, provided the owner  
124 of such canine shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or  
125 facilities by such canine.

126 (b) Any person who denies the rights afforded to individual  
127 members of a volunteer canine search and rescue team under  
128 subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor,  
129 provided such individual member complies with the applicable  
130 provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

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| This act shall take effect as follows: |                        |
| Section 1                              | <i>October 1, 2004</i> |
| Sec. 2                                 | <i>October 1, 2004</i> |
| Sec. 3                                 | <i>October 1, 2004</i> |
| Sec. 4                                 | <i>October 1, 2004</i> |

**PS**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

**JUD**