



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 207**

*January Session, 2009*

Substitute House Bill No. 5532

*House of Representatives, March 25, 2009*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. SHARKEY of the 88th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE POLICE OFFICERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-313a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

3 The authorities having the supervision of the fire department of any  
4 town, city, borough or district may appoint such number of fire  
5 department members or other persons, within available  
6 appropriations, as they deem necessary to be fire police officers of such  
7 municipality or district, who shall have the powers and perform the  
8 duties in such municipality or district as designated and authorized by  
9 the fire chief of such municipality or district, and such fire police  
10 officers may exercise such powers and duties in any [adjoining] other  
11 municipality or district while on duty with the fire department or with  
12 a cooperating fire department, where the department is engaged in  
13 mutual assistance. Such powers and duties shall include traffic control  
14 and regulation and may be exercised by such fire police during any

15 fire drill or fire call or at any other time when such fire police are  
 16 serving with the fire department, with any other fire department in [an  
 17 adjoining] another municipality or district or with any fire department  
 18 rendering mutual assistance. Each such fire police officer while in the  
 19 performance of fire police duties shall wear the badge of office in plain  
 20 view of any observer. Each such fire police officer, while directing  
 21 traffic in performance of the duties of fire police, [(1)] shall (1) wear (A)  
 22 a [white] helmet with the words "Fire Police" in red letters on the front  
 23 thereof, any other headgear that meets national, state and local traffic  
 24 safety standards or a regulation fire-police dress uniform cap, and  
 25 [after dark or in inclement weather,] (B) a traffic safety vest, orange or  
 26 lime green raincoat or any reflectorized orange or lime green outer  
 27 clothing, that meets national, state and local traffic safety standards, (2)  
 28 carry a flashlight, which shall have a red or orange wand and be  
 29 capable of projecting a clear light for the purpose of illumination at  
 30 nighttime, and (3) utilize hand-held or portable traffic control devices  
 31 appropriate for the time of day, weather and traffic flow. Such helmet,  
 32 cap, vest, raincoat or outer clothing, badge, traffic control equipment  
 33 and flashlight [may] shall be supplied by the appointing municipality  
 34 or district.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2009	7-313a

**PD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 10 \$</b>	<b>FY 11 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill makes a number of changes to the clothing and equipment which fire police officers must utilize in performing professional duties, and requires rather than allows municipalities to supply fire police officers with such clothing and equipment. This results in a potential minimal<sup>1</sup> cost to municipalities that utilize the services of fire police officers.

Current law allows the supervising authority of the fire department of any town, city, borough or district to appoint fire police officers should such authority choose to do so. It is estimated that there are currently 1,000 fire police officers at 90 fire departments throughout the state. To the extent that clothing and equipment must be purchased by any municipalities that may choose to employ such fire police officers, there is an estimated cost of \$275 per officer.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

<sup>1</sup> The Office of Fiscal Analysis defines any impact less than \$50,000 as "minimal."

*Source(s): Connecticut Fire Police Association statistics*

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5532**

***AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE POLICE OFFICERS.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill makes a number of changes with regard to fire police officers who direct traffic and have other responsibilities at fire scenes. The bill:

1. allows fire police officers to work in any, rather than just adjoining, municipalities when working with their fire department;
2. requires rather than allows municipalities to supply fire police officers with their work clothing and equipment;
3. requires the officers to wear a traffic safety vest, orange or lime green raincoat or reflectorized orange or lime green outer clothing, that meets national, state and local traffic safety standards whenever they are on duty, rather than just after dark or in bad weather;
4. allows fire police officers to wear any other headgear that meets these standards as an alternative to a helmet;
5. allows the helmet to be a color other than white; and
6. specifically allows municipal fire department officials to appoint members of the department as fire police officers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/06/2009)