



House of Representatives

File No. 963

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

(Reprint of File No. 231)

House Bill No. 6541
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 14, 2009

**AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION
REQUIREMENTS.**

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 Section 7-313a of the general statutes is repealed and the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 be supplied by the appointing municipality or
 34 district.

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

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:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 10 \$ | FY 11 \$ |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Various Municipalities | See Below | See Below | See Below |

Explanation

The bill makes a number of changes to the clothing and equipment which fire police officers must utilize in performing professional duties. This results in a potential minimal¹ cost to municipalities that choose to supply fire police officers with such clothing and equipment.

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 municipalities choose to supply the clothing and equipment specified in the bill, there is an estimated cost of \$275 per officer.

House "A" eliminates the original bill and associated fiscal impact, and results in the impact described above.

The Out Years

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

Sources: Connecticut Fire Police Association statistics

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6541 (as amended by House "A")*****AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires fire police officers directing traffic to wear at all times, not just after dark or in inclement weather, a traffic vest, orange or lime green raincoat, or other reflectorized orange or lime green outer clothing that meets national, state, and local safety standards. It (1) allows such officers to wear headgear that meets national, state, and local safety standards, as an alternative to the currently required helmet or regulation fire-police dress uniform cap and (2) eliminates the requirement that the helmet be white.

The bill specifically allows a fire chief to appoint fire department members as fire police officers. Under current law, the chief may, within available appropriations, appoint "such number of persons" he or she deems necessary to perform fire police functions. The bill allows officers functioning in their official capacity to exercise their powers and carry out their duties in any town, instead of just adjoining towns. Fire police officers direct traffic and have other responsibilities at fire scenes.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill, which required certification in adult, child, and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use as a condition of Firefighter I certification, and changes the effective date from July 1, 2009 to October 1, 2009.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/10/2009)