



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 645

January Session, 2009

Substitute Senate Bill No. 850

Senate, April 15, 2009

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

3 (a) Each local fire marshal and the State Fire Marshal, for the
4 purpose of satisfying themselves that all pertinent statutes and
5 regulations are complied with, may inspect in the interests of public
6 safety all buildings, facilities, processes, equipment, systems and other
7 areas regulated by the State Fire Safety Code and the State Fire
8 Prevention Code within their respective jurisdictions.

9 (b) Each local fire marshal shall inspect or cause to be inspected, at
10 least once each calendar year or as often as prescribed by the State Fire
11 Marshal pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, in the interests of
12 public safety, all buildings and facilities of public service and all
13 occupancies regulated by the State Fire Safety Code within the local
14 fire marshal's jurisdiction, except residential buildings designed to be

15 occupied by one or two families which shall be inspected, upon
16 complaint or request of an owner or occupant, only for the purpose of
17 determining whether the requirements specified in said codes relative
18 to smoke detection and warning equipment have been satisfied. In the
19 case of a school building, each local fire marshal shall submit a written
20 report to the local or regional board of education documenting each
21 such inspection.

22 (c) Upon receipt by the State Fire Marshal of information from an
23 authentic source that any other building or facility within the State Fire
24 Marshal's jurisdiction is hazardous to life safety from fire, the State Fire
25 Marshal shall inspect such building or facility.

26 (d) Upon receipt by the local fire marshal of information from an
27 authentic source that any other building or facility within the local fire
28 marshal's jurisdiction is hazardous to life safety from fire, the local fire
29 marshal shall inspect such building or facility. In each case in which
30 the local fire marshal conducts an inspection, the local fire marshal
31 shall be satisfied that all pertinent statutes and regulations are
32 complied with, and shall keep a record of such investigations. Such
33 local fire marshal or a designee shall have the right of entry at all
34 reasonable hours into or upon any premises within the local fire
35 marshal's jurisdiction for the performance of the fire marshal's duties
36 except that occupied dwellings and habitations, exclusive of common
37 use passageways and rooms in tenement houses, hotels and rooming
38 houses, may only be entered for inspections between the hours of 9:00
39 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except in the event of any emergency requiring
40 immediate attention for safety to life, or in the interests of public
41 safety. Each local fire marshal shall make a monthly report to the
42 authority which appointed the local fire marshal and shall be paid for
43 his or her services in making such inspections of buildings, facilities,
44 processes, equipment, systems and other areas the compensation
45 agreed upon with such appointing authority.

46 (e) The State Fire Marshal may adopt amendments to the State Fire
47 Safety Code and the State Fire Prevention Code regarding

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires local fire marshals to submit a written report to a local or regional school board each time an inspection of a school building is conducted. This does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as local fire marshals are currently required to file a report on all inspections and submitting such report to school boards could be accommodated at no additional cost.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Sources: Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing Testimony 2/10/09

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 850*****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires local fire marshals to submit written reports of every school inspection they conduct to the local or regional education board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND***Fire Marshal Inspections***

By law, a local fire marshal must inspect public service facilities, including public and private schools, at least annually and submit monthly reports to his or her appointing authority (i.e., board of fire commissioners or corresponding authority or the municipality's legislative body, board of selectmen, or warden, as appropriate).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/05/2009)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 30 Nay 0 (04/01/2009)