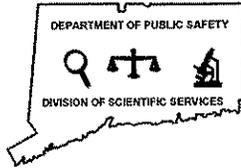




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 10, 2009

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 788 AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE BUILDING CODE BE REVISED TO INCORPORATE REVISIONS TO THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

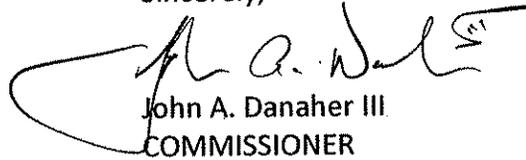
The Department of Public Safety opposes this bill.

The 2005 State Building Code, effective for building permits applied for on or after December 31, 2005, references the 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC is revised and republished every three years. Historically, the edition to edition changes in any nationally developed code are by and large refinements to requirements found in previous editions, with few wholly new requirements. In fact, editions of the NEC going back to the 1930's and 40's contain language still found in today's NEC. It is this agency's position that the benefits to be gained by adopting every published edition (all are on three year cycles) of any nationally recognized code do not outweigh the considerable cost and effort involved in its adoption. This is particularly true because the process for adoption of the state building code itself is time consuming.

The process by which regulations are adopted is lengthy and complex, requiring a year or more to complete. For example, amendments to the building and fire codes currently underway began with review by the governor's office and OPM in late September, 2007. Upon approval by those offices, the agency began the public comment process by posting a notice of public hearing in the Connecticut Law Journal. The public hearing was held on Feb. 26, 2008. Upon the conclusion of that hearing, the agency reviewed all comments, revised the draft accordingly and notified those who commented as to the outcome. Then, the drafts were filed with the Office of the Attorney General, followed by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee. These amendments are now awaiting approval by the Regulation Review Committee.

There is no good public policy reason for passage of this bill. Every municipality as well as every state agency involved in construction of state buildings would be required to purchase multiple copies of not only the NEC, but the handbook required to understand the provisions of the code, resulting in expenses in the hundreds of dollars. In addition, multiple educational seminars would be required to be presented and attended by design professionals, electricians and code enforcers statewide. This would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate on municipalities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John A. Danaher III

COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety