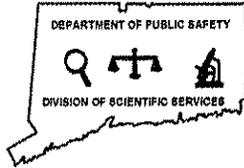


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 18, 2010

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

HB 5156 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISMISSAL OF LOCAL FIRE MARSHALS

The Department of Public Safety requests additional language if this bill moves forward.

Public Act 09-35, AAC the Inspection of Elevators, the Authority of the State and Local Fire Marshals, the Regulation of Explosives and other Technical Changes, amended CGS 29-298 to state that "If no local fire marshal has been appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 29-297, the deputy fire marshal or acting fire marshal shall assume the authority granted to the local fire marshal under this section."

The concern of the Department of Public Safety is that there be a qualified fire marshal in place at all times. This bill would state in statute that a municipality may dismiss a fire marshal employed or appointed on an at will basis in accordance with such municipality's charter or home rule ordinance. If this bill moves forward, the agency requests the following additional language:

"If a fire marshal is dismissed pursuant to municipal charter or home rule ordinance and there is no deputy in place to assume the authority pursuant to CGS 29-298, the applicable town authority pursuant to CGS 29-297 shall immediately appoint a local fire marshal."

Sincerely,

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety