



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 67

January Session, 2011

House Bill No. 5489

House of Representatives, March 14, 2011

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ADDITIONAL STATE FIRE SCHOOL.

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-323p of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

3 (a) The Office of State Fire Administration shall maintain and
4 operate [a] two state fire [school] schools which shall serve as the
5 training and education arm of the Commission on Fire Prevention and
6 Control. The use of any hazardous material, as defined in section 29-
7 307a, except a virgin fuel, is prohibited in the simulation of any fire.
8 The office shall fix fees for training and education programs and
9 sessions and for such other purposes deemed necessary for the
10 operation and support of the [school] schools, subject to the approval
11 of the commission. Such fees shall be used solely for training and
12 education purposes.

13 (b) The commission may establish and maintain a state fire school
14 training and education extension account, which shall be a separate

15 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any
16 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The account
17 may be used for the operation of such training and education
18 extension programs and sessions as the Office of State Fire
19 Administration may establish, for the purchase of such equipment as is
20 required for use in the operation of such programs and sessions, and
21 for (1) reimbursement to municipalities and municipal fire
22 departments for one-half of the costs of Firefighter I certification and
23 recruit training of municipal volunteer and paid fire service personnel,
24 and (2) reimbursement to state agencies for one-half of the costs of
25 Firefighter I certification and recruit training of state agency fire
26 service personnel. All proceeds derived from the operation of the
27 training and education extension programs and sessions shall be
28 deposited in the General Fund and shall be credited to and become a
29 part of the resources of the account. All direct expenses incurred in the
30 conduct of the training, certification and education programs and
31 sessions shall be charged, and any payments of interest and principal
32 of bonds or any sums transferable to any fund for the payment of
33 interest and principal of bonds and any cost of equipment for such
34 operations may be charged, against the account on order of the State
35 Comptroller. Any balance of receipts above expenditures shall remain
36 in the account to be used for its training and education programs and
37 sessions, and for the acquisition, as provided by section 4b-21,
38 alteration and repairs of real property for educational facilities, except
39 such sums as may be required to be transferred from time to time to
40 any fund for the redemption of bonds and payment of interest on
41 bonds, provided repairs, alterations or additions to educational
42 facilities costing fifty thousand dollars or less shall require the
43 approval of the Commissioner of Public Works, and capital projects
44 costing over fifty thousand dollars shall require the approval of the
45 General Assembly or, when the General Assembly is not in session, of
46 the Finance Advisory Committee.

47 (c) The commission may establish and maintain a state fire school
48 auxiliary services account, which shall be a separate account within the
49 General Fund. The account shall be used for the operation,

50 maintenance and repair of auxiliary service facilities and for such other
 51 auxiliary activities of the state fire [school] schools as the Office of State
 52 Fire Administration determines. The proceeds of such activities shall
 53 be deposited in the General Fund and shall be credited to and become
 54 a part of the resources of the account. All direct expenses of operation,
 55 maintenance and repair of facilities, food services and other auxiliary
 56 activities shall be charged, and any payments of interest and principal
 57 of bonds or any sums transferable to any fund for the payment of
 58 interest and principal of bonds and any cost of equipment for such
 59 operations may be charged, against the account on order of the State
 60 Comptroller. Any balance of receipts above expenditures shall remain
 61 in the account to be used for the improvement and extension of such
 62 activities, except such sums as may be required to be transferred from
 63 time to time to any fund for the redemption of bonds and payment of
 64 interest on bonds, provided repairs, alterations or additions to
 65 auxiliary service facilities costing fifty thousand dollars or less shall
 66 require the approval of the Commissioner of Public Works, and capital
 67 projects costing over fifty thousand dollars shall require the approval
 68 of the General Assembly or, when the General Assembly is not in
 69 session, of the Finance Advisory Committee. The commission, with the
 70 approval of the Finance Advisory Committee, may borrow from the
 71 resources of the General Fund at any time such sum or sums as it
 72 deems advisable, to establish or continue auxiliary services activities,
 73 such sums to be repaid in accordance with such schedule as the
 74 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall establish.

75 Sec. 2. (*Effective October 1, 2011*) One of the state fire schools
 76 established in accordance with section 7-323p of the general statutes, as
 77 amended by this act, shall be located at the fire training facility located
 78 at Plumtrees Road in the city of Danbury.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	7-323p
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section

PS *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Fire Prevention & Control, Com.	GF - Potential Cost	20,000	20,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Danbury	Potential Savings	20,000	20,000

Explanation

The bill shifts control of the fire training facility located in Danbury from the City of Danbury to the State. The bill also gives the Danbury facility access to the Fire School Auxiliary Services Account, which began the current fiscal year with a balance of \$200,734. The annual operating costs of the Danbury facility are approximately \$20,000.

Background

The Fire School Auxiliary Services Account is a General Fund account that is not appropriated. Instead, the account is supported by proceeds from auxiliary activities of the state fire school. The account is used to fund maintenance, operation and repairs at the auxiliary service facilities of the Connecticut Fire Prevention and Control agency. The account is non-lapsing, meaning that any funds which are not spent during a fiscal year automatically continue into the subsequent fiscal year.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact is uncertain.

Source: City of Danbury Fire Department

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5489*****AN ACT CONCERNING AN ADDITIONAL STATE FIRE SCHOOL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from one to two, the number of state fire schools that the Office of State Fire Administration must operate to train and educate fire service personnel. It requires that the new school be located at the fire training facility at Plumtrees Road in Danbury. The existing school is located in Windsor Locks.

As is currently required for the existing school, the office must fix fees for the training and education programs and sessions and other purposes necessary for operating and supporting the new school, subject to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control's approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND***Funding of Fire School***

By law, the commission may establish and maintain a state fire school training and education extension account for:

1. operating training and education extension programs and sessions the Office of State Fire Administration establishes;
2. buying equipment for the programs and sessions; and
3. reimbursing municipalities, municipal fire departments, and state agencies one-half the cost of (a) providing Firefighter 1 certification training and (b) recruiting municipal and state agency fire personnel.

By law, the commission may also establish and maintain a state fire school auxiliary services account to be used for operating, maintaining, and repairing auxiliary service facilities and for other school auxiliary activities, as the office determines.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/01/2011)