



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## Testimony

### In support of H.B. 5054

**AAC Indemnification For Volunteer Fire Companies, Volunteer Fire Police Patrols And Volunteer Ambulance Services.**

**Planning And Development Committee  
Monday, February 14, 2011**

Dear Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman and members of the Planning And Development Committee:

I am here today to testify in support of H.B. 5054. An OLR Research Report, 98-0549, discusses the issue of Volunteer Firefighter Liability, it states: CONNECTICUT LAW... Indemnification

There is apparently no state law requiring municipalities to assume the costs of a volunteer firefighter's legal defense. The firefighter indemnification statute does allow the municipality and the firefighter to be represented by the same attorney, but only if the municipality files a written notice with the court indicating that it will pay any verdict rendered against the firefighter (CGS § 7-308).

Another municipal indemnification statute requires each municipality to hold its employees (like police and paid firefighters) harmless from financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, arising out of any legal claim, lawsuit, or judgment, because of the alleged negligence... while acting in the discharge of his duties (CGS § 7-101a).

This OLR report summarizes the problem the proposed legislation is designed to remedy.

### OBJECTIVE

The object of this legislative proposal is to put volunteer firefighters, police patrols and their volunteer support staffs, on par with municipal employees insofar as requiring municipalities to provide

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indemnification for legal fees and expense to the same degree as provided for in CGS 101a; either by amending 7-101a to include these volunteers; or expand 7-308 which presently covers volunteers, but does not provide the defense provisions found in 7-101a .

In addition, volunteer Fire Police Patrols and the members of the volunteer emergency service organizations are to be included in the class of those protected.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Camillo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the text "Best regards,".

Fred Camillo  
State Representative  
151<sup>st</sup> House District