



## Connecticut Fire Marshals Association

**S.B. No. 1016 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING.**

**S.B. No. 1017 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR AMUSEMENT PARK OVERSIGHT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.**

Members of the Public Safety and Securities Committee thank you for the opportunity to speak today **AGAINST** Senate Bill Number(s) 1016 and 1017.

My name is Patrick Tourville I have been involved in the fire service for over 31 years. I currently serve as the President of the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association and the New England Association of Fire Marshals. I also have the pleasure of sitting on the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations of Connecticut and have been a certified Fire Marshal for 17 years and Firefighter for 31 in a volunteer fire Department.

I first want to state that there is a need for the restructure and consolidation of many state agencies to aid in minimizing of our states current fiscal deficit. I believe however that there are better ways in accomplishing this than what has been presented in these two bills. The consideration of not only closing the deficit but the long term effect these changes will bring to both the users of these agencies and the people that will benefit should also be in the forefront.

With the restructure I believe that state agencies that have common goals should be grouped together. Agencies involving emergency responders should be grouped together to enhance planning and preparedness for all participants in emergency response. With the attached model it will allow each of the agencies to improve its support to both local government and organizations throughout the state.

The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control aids in preventing or mitigating the effects of fire and disasters, either natural or manmade, on the citizens of the state. They accomplish this by developing and delivering educational programs that meet nationally recognized standards to certify and train both emergency responders and the public and private sectors. As a student of many certification classes and delivered programs at the CFPC's fire academy I'm able to return to my local fire department to bring the most current up to date training to better serve the residents while responding to an emergency. This should not be lost or changed. As Connecticut is served by a majority of volunteer fire departments the Connecticut Fire Academy and regional Fire Schools provide nearly all the training new firefighters.

The Police Officers Standard Council provides all the mandatory training a certified police officer in the state requires. These officers are mandated to get this training and POST offers this training to its target users.

With our recommended model all these users will benefit or be enhanced by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to reach even more nationally recognized training in specific areas of expertise while cross training and utilizing additional resources for education.

I ask that you do not support these bills and speak with the various emergency responder services and see how they can aid in a better solution in restructuring the state agencies they use.



Patrick Tourville  
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Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, President  
New England Association of Fire Marshals, President

**Proposed by the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations**



