

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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PAUL J. RAPANAULT

DIRECTOR

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Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Paul Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislation/Political Affairs of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut. The UPFFA represents 5,000 career fire fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers in nearly 60 municipal and state local unions.

I am here today to support two bills before you.

House Bill 5378 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM SURCHARGE FOR ENHANCED 911 SERVICE

raises the 911 surcharge cap that the DPUC can levy on Connecticut phone bills. Currently, the cap is set at 50 cents per month, per line with a slightly different formula for multi-lines and cell phones. This rate has been in effect for the past two years. In last year's decision, the DPUC set the rate again at the 50 cent cap and stated in its communication that the statutory cap should be set at between 75 cents and one dollar. The DPUC felt that this increased funding level is necessary so that the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications can carry out its statutory responsibilities. The current 911 system is antiquated and replacement parts are becoming harder to purchase. At the current rate of 50 cents, there is not enough money in the 911 fund to purchase a Next Generation 911 system. A single phone line user in Connecticut currently pays \$6 per year for 911 service. This is the 8th lowest in the nation. It is time to give OSET the resources they need to bring our Emergency 911 service into the 21st century. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

House Bill 5380 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF HOUSE NUMBERS is common sense legislation.

The simple act of placing house numbers in a readily viewable place on our residences could be the difference between help arriving at the scene of an emergency in a timely manner or arriving several minutes too late. The three to four minutes it takes emergency crews to drive by an unmarked home and turn around are critical to successfully administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and other time sensitive emergency procedures. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

Thank you for your consideration of these issues and I would be glad to answer any question.

Paul J Rapanault, Legislative/Political Affairs

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