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## OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sHB 5236

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMBULANCE COMPANIES AND THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER UNDER THE STATE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies to comply with the state's Occupational Safety and Health Act (Conn-OSHA). By law, the state and political subdivisions must comply with Conn-OSHA. (Under current law, volunteer fire departments are not considered political subdivisions.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Case***

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Act governs workplace safety in the private sector, but states may enact their own laws governing public-sector employers and employees. In *Mayfield v. Goshen Volunteer Fire Company* (301 Conn. 739 (2011)), the state Supreme Court ruled that a volunteer fire company did not have to comply with a Conn-OSHA warrant to inspect the company's premises because it was not a political subdivision of the state.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (03/15/2012)