



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 28, 2013

Senator Joan Hartley, Co-Chair Public Safety Committee
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety Committee
Senator Tony Guglielmo, Ranking Member Public Safety Committee
Representative Jan Giegler, Ranking Member Public Safety Committee

Members of the Public Safety & Security Committee,

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. I would like to comment on **Raised House Bill # 6454, AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE STATION WORK ZONES.**

THE CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF THIS PROPOSAL.

As traffic patterns increase it is becoming increasingly unsafe for firefighters as they respond to emergency incidents with their apparatus and return to their fire stations. For a quick response many fire stations are situated on main roads within their communities. As a result these streets have become increasingly congested. Many fire stations require the responding firefighters to stop oncoming traffic as their apparatus leaves and returns to that station. Most times this requires that the firefighters must stand out in the roadways. This activity becomes dangerous to the firefighters as the motoring public tends to disregard their directions. It is anticipated that by designating these areas in front of the fire stations as **WORK ZONES**, the penalties that are associated with violating these zones will deter aggressive drivers from endangering the lives of these firefighters.

It is anticipated that the fire station work zone would refer to both sides of the street area of a two-way street between the property lines of the fire station property. In the case of a street divided by an island, the work zone area will only be that portion of the street area directly in front of the fire station. Most fire station areas are already marked with fire station traffic signage. Any required work zone signage can be posted at those same sign posts. Fire station work zones shall only be effective if uniformed firefighters are visible directing traffic within the work zone area. Firefighters must be clothed in firefighter protective gear or dress uniform that clearly identifies that individual as a firefighter.

Please Help Protect The Safety Of Connecticut's Firefighters By Supporting This Legislation.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

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