



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES



Testimony in Support of Raised House Bill 6425
AAC Fire Safety Enforcement Officials

Pasquale Salemi
Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Construction Services
Public Safety & Security Committee
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Good morning Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Geigler and distinguished members of the Committee. For the record my name is Pasquale Salemi, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Construction Services. On behalf of Commissioner Defronzo and the DCS staff we would like to thank the leadership of the Committee for the raising this proposal.

Raised House Bill 6425 is offered on behalf of the Office of Education & Data Management and the Office of State Fire Marshal. The proposal intends to streamline the process for the certification of fire safety enforcement officials and to remove administrative inconsistencies.

Presently pursuant to the statutory language C.G.S. 29-298, after completing a recognized training program, the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) certifies as "eligible to be certified" and once hired, we must then issue a second certificate as "certified". The inconsistency is that the statute does not allow a community to hire an individual unless the person is "certified".

Eliminating "eligible to be certified" status eliminates the need to keep records of a particular area. It makes processing of credentials uniform and more efficient. The individuals who have passed the certification examinations, but are not appointed (employed), would be certified. Certification would be based on successful completion of credentialing exams, which is similar to Building Officials.

This would make the processing of credentials uniform and more efficient as well as eliminating additional record keeping. Regardless, our continuing education requirements apply so they can remain 'eligible to be certified', thus resulting in a high level of candidates.

This proposal will allow a community to readily appoint a person to the role of fire safety official without the need for 'state' paperwork intervention."

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in these matters. My staff and I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.