



February 28, 2013

Public Safety & Security Committee  
Room 3600  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: H.B. #6425 – AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Dargan and Hartley and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee;

My name is John Yacovino, and I am the President of the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association (CFMA). I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the CFMA to go on record against House Bill No. 6425 – AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

The CFMA does understand that this bill was introduced to streamline the certification process between a local fire marshal and that of a local building inspector. CFMA attempted to sit down with the Office of Education and Data Management (OEDM), the State Fire Marshal and representatives of the Department of Administrative Services and work out a plan that would benefit all parties involved. Unfortunately, we have not been able to reach a compromise on this issue.

The CFMA feels that the a main point of contention is the fact that we would like to have minimum qualifications to be certified as a fire marshal, deputy fire marshal or fire inspector in a similar manner to what currently exist to become a certified building inspector, assistant building inspector or a electrical / mechanical inspector. Currently, no minimum qualifications are required to gain acceptance into the pre-certification class or other programs as deemed equivalent by the Office of State Fire Marshal. However, on the building side they have minimum qualification in place that must be documented by ODEM to determine admittance into the program. The CFMA is asking only that we have similar requirements established in writing that must be documented by ODEM to determine admittance into the program for certification as a fire marshal, deputy fire marshal or fire inspector.

The CFMA working in conjunction with all eight county fire marshal associations determined the following as minimum qualifications for fire marshal, deputy fire marshal or fire inspector;

1. Connecticut Certification as a Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials Operational. OR
2. Three years firefighting experience. OR
3. Three years experience working within a Fire Marshal's Office. OR

4. Certified Police Officer (To support the LFM with arson investigation due to the fact that LFM do not have powers of arrest).

These requirements are in fact less stringent than the requirements to become a building inspector. They have nine classes of licensure and the majority requires five years experience in a trade and or pre-existing contractor licenses such as a contractor, plumber or electrician. The fire side typically has just three classifications; fire marshal, deputy fire marshal or fire inspector.

CFMA is in full agreement with having pre-existing requirements in place prior to becoming a building inspector or assistant building inspector. Again, we are only asking that we as fire marshals, deputy fire marshals or fire inspectors have similar requirements so that the best qualified people are in the field conducting life safety inspections and fire investigations within our state.

CFMA is also recommending a change to the certification authority, from the Codes and Standards Committee to the Fire Marshal Training Council and the State Fire Marshal. Additionally, we ask that the 90 hour training requirement every three years be changed to 90 hours on a rotating average. This would give credit to those who are able to train for more than 90 hours over the three year period.

CFMA would welcome any chance to sit down with all interested parties and work together toward streamlining the certification process and thereby improving the quality of our local fire marshals, deputy fire marshals and fire inspectors so that we are better able to prevent fires within the State of Connecticut.

Respectfully,

John Yacovino, President  
Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association

203-537-1329  
jyacovino@meridenct.gov