



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 929
AAC Consolidation Functions and Operations of the
Department of Construction Services and Regulating Special Effects

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Deputy Commissioner, Department of Construction Services
Public Safety and Security Committee
February 28, 2013

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, I would like to thank the leadership of the committee for raising this proposal.

Raised Senate Bill 929, An Act Concerning Consolidation Functions and Operations of the Department of Construction Services and Regulating Special Effects Displays, reflects the agreement between DCS and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to transfer certain functions from DCS to DESPP. The functions that are the subject of this bill are functions that fell under the Department of Public Safety's purview before the agency consolidations of July 2011. Namely, Senate Bill 929 seeks to return to DESPP responsibility for the regulation of the following areas: Explosives, fireworks, and model rocketry.

Currently, DESPP performs these functions by way of a MOU between our departments. As such, the transfers of authority reflected by the bill do not require any transfer of people or other resources.

In addition, the bill seeks to establish within DESPP a mechanism for that department to regulate the use of special effects created by either pyrotechnics or flame producing devices. Two years ago, this special effects component was a stand-alone proposal by the Office of the State Fire Marshal currently within DCS but then a part of the Department of Public Safety. Currently, there is a void with respect to the regulation of flame effects before an audience. This bill will also allow for the licensing of technicians specifically for the operation of these types of special effects. The bill specifically carves out of the regulations ceremonial activities that include minimal use of pyrotechnics or flame producing devices.

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