



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 4, 2013

Senator Andrew Maynard, Co-Chair Transportation Committee
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair Transportation Committee
Senator Toni Boucher, Ranking Member, Transportation Committee
Representative David Scribner, Ranking Member, Transportation Committee

SUBJECT: PROPOSED HOUSE BILL #5252

Dear Legislators,

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents approximately 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. We would like to comment on **House Bill #5252, AAC INFRACTIONS FOR FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNALS GIVEN BY FIRE POLICE OFFICERS.**

We realize that this is a PROPOSED bill and as such the text is not very precise. While we do not have any concerns with the simple statement in the proposed bill, we do have concerns with a possible conclusion of this legislative initiative. We have been approached in a prior year and were asked to support the concept of allowing fire police officers limited police powers to be able to issue citations/infractions for this very issue. **WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF ALLOWING FIRE POLICE OFFICERS TO ISSUE VIOLATIONS.** We would support the issuance of infractions for violations if a proper procedure is performed: i.e. reporting the violation/violators to a sworn police officer for processing, similar to the process of reporting the passing of a school bus.

We believe that Section 7-313a of CGS which recognizes fire police officers as members of a municipal fire department appointed by the authorities of that fire department are sufficient. Those duties as allowed by statute do NOT include issuing of traffic violations. We have made inquiries to the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association and they both agree with our position.

Additionally, we have made the same inquiry with the Connecticut Fire Police Association. In a letter to us in March of 2012 they stated that they were uncertain that this initiative is needed. They felt that there was more than one existing state statute that pertains to DISOBEYING THE SIGNAL OF AN OFFICER that they feel may suffice.

We would ask that you look closely at whether this legislative initiative is needed. If you feel that it is needed, we suggest that the language be crafted narrowly to insure that it does not infringe with Sect. 7-313e, AUTHORITY OF A FIRE OFFICER DURING EMERGENCY. There can only be ONE Incident Commander at an emergency scene. That Incident Commander must be the Fire Chief.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

HB52522013