

MYSTIC FIRE DISTRICT

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Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 439

Members of the Public Health Committee;

This correspondence is submitted for your consideration as comment on the Proposed Bill SB #439. It is the opinion of our department and many members of the Fire Service in the State of Connecticut that the current language of the Bill, as proposed, is detrimental not only to the Fire Service in our State but to all emergency responders as well as and foremost the safety of the public. The current language of CGS 7-313e clearly states that the command and control of an emergency scene is the responsibility of the Fire Department. This bill runs counter to that statute and if enacted would compromise the safety of the emergency responders as well as potentially the public in need of the same emergency services.

The Fire Service as well as other emergency responders including police and EMS have made great strides in implementing the Incident Command System and also working in a Unified Command structure when dictated and necessary. I implore you and the committee not to change a system that is recognized and utilized throughout our state on a daily basis. This Bill, as proposed, may dramatically change the Command structure at both routine and complex emergencies and it is my hope and request that SB #439 will not be considered by you committee.

Respectfully,

Frank C. Hilbert
Fire Chief, Mystic Fire Department