



The Connecticut Fire Marshals Assoc.

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Committee on Public Safety and Security

HB 5388 AAC The Penalty For Assault of Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors, Building Officials and Assistant Building Officials

March 4, 2014

Good afternoon Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Kevin Kowalski , Fire Marshal of Simsbury and Legislative Committee chair for the CT Fire Marshals Association, representing over 300 members.

I am here today to speak in favor of House Bill 5388. This bill will add Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals, and Fire Inspectors as well as Building Officials and Assistant Building Officials who are reasonably identified as such, to the existing list of public safety officials currently identified in 53a167c. This statute states that an assault on the current list of public safety officials is a Class C felony.

An assault took place late last year in Stamford against two Fire Marshals inspecting an establishment. They were attacked by a plumber who was working on a building. While this person was charged under the above noted statute, it was only because the Fire Marshal personnel were members of a fire department. They were covered under this statute as firefighters.

Our organization received many calls of concern from Fire Marshals that are not affiliated with a fire department and cannot be classified as a firefighter. They work directly for the municipality. This is prevalent in small communities, specifically if the town has a Volunteer Fire Company that is incorporated. After a review we were surprised that there are numerous Fire Marshals, Deputies



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and inspectors that are not affiliated with a Fire Department. This language would go a long way to protect the public safety officials that are working to protect the citizens through building inspections and fire investigations that are not affiliated with a Fire Department.

Thank you for your support of this bill.