

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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PAUL J. RAPANAULT
DIRECTOR
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Good morning Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Paul Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislation/Political Affairs of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut. The UPFFA represents 4,000 career fire fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers in nearly 60 municipal and state local unions.

I am here today to **support S.B. No. 103 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS.**

PURPOSE

To require all state and municipal career and volunteer fire departments to maintain their fleet of apparatus to be in compliance with the Federal DOT safety, inspection and maintenance regulations and to also require all state and municipal career and volunteer fire departments to be in compliance with NFPA 1911 with regards to the apparatus pump and aerial components.

HISTORY

Currently all municipal career and volunteer Fire Departments enjoy immunity from lawsuits from fire fighters for any injuries that may be sustained in the performance of their duties. The immunity also prohibits the fire fighter's survivors, in the case of death, from seeking restitution against the department. Even in the case of gross negligence, the fire department is immune.

There are no minimum standards required for fire apparatus to be maintained in a operationally safe condition in the State of Connecticut. Such minimum standards would ensure that the fire apparatus being used to respond to emergencies is safe for the fire fighters and the general public.

LEGISLATION

All state, municipal career and volunteer Fire Departments in the State of Connecticut shall be required to maintain their fleet of apparatus to be in compliance with all Federal DOT safety, inspection and maintenance regulations and all apparatus pump and aerial components shall be in compliance with NFPA 1911. Failure to comply with this standard will constitute negligence on the part of the Fire Department. If a fire fighter is injured and or killed as a result of this negligence then all immunity the Fire Department has shall be void. Further, if it is proven that the negligence was willful, then the Fire Department administrative personnel would be subject to the same criminal statutes that currently apply to commercial vehicle owners.

We support S.B. No. 101 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING FIRST RESPONDER DAY.

Thank you for your consider of these most important issues.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Rapanault". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "R".

Paul J. Rapanault
DIRECTOR
Legislative/Political Affairs