



Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association



Position Statement: Opposition to HB 6824

Issued February 25, 2015

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE.

The mission of the CFCA is to promote the position of Chief Fire Officers in Connecticut as the leaders of the fire service through continuing education, unity in the fire service, safety, and professionalism as a fire officer. The association is involved in legislative issues, training, regulatory and many other facets of the fire service. The CFCA represents Chief Fire Officers from across the State of Connecticut.

1. Connecticut's Regional Fire School System is comprised of **9 schools that have been strategically placed across the state of Connecticut.**
 - Connecticut Fire Academy & Hartford County Fire School (**Windsor Locks**)
 - Eastern Connecticut Fire School (**Willimantic**)
 - Middlesex County Fire School (**Middletown**)
 - New Haven Regional Fire School (**New Haven**)
 - Fairfield Regional Fire School (**Fairfield**)
 - Stamford Regional Fire School (**Stamford**)
 - Valley Fire Chiefs Training School (**Derby**) *Relocating to Beacon Falls
 - Burrville State Fire School (**Torrington**)
 - Wolcott State Fire School (**Wolcott**) *Relocating to Cheshire
2. The Regional Fire Schools play a vital role in providing training, instructors and / or facilities for the **required initial and ongoing training of Connecticut's Fire Fighters.**
3. The proposal to eliminate funding for the Regional Fire Schools will have an **immediate, adverse, and significant impact on fire fighters, municipalities, and fire districts across the State of Connecticut.**
4. Regional Fire School Coordinators have provided estimates that, **without State Funding, the cost of tuition and facility rentals will increase between 300 and 400%.**
5. **Fire Chiefs across the State of Connecticut will be faced with difficult choices between providing training or equipment for their fire fighters** during the upcoming year if they are forced to absorb a 300-400% in fees related to services provided to their department by the Regional Fire School.
6. **The proposed elimination of Regional Fire School Funding is a reduction in funding to cities and towns.**
7. **The CFCA opposes the budget proposal impacting the regional fire schools.**
8. **The CFCA strongly supports the restoration of funding for the Regional Fire Schools in the upcoming budget.**

For additional information:

CFCA President Marc A. Scrivener
Chief, Willimantic Fire Department
Phone: 860.465.3120
Email: mscrivener@windhamct.com

CFCA Legislative Committee Chair Mary-Ellen L. Harper
Director of Fire & Rescue Services, Town of Farmington
Phone: 860.675.2322
Email: HarperM@Farmington-CT.org