



Raised Bill 6972
An Act Concerning Fire Safety
Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Public Safety & Security Committee
March 12, 2015

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), which houses the Office of the State Building Inspector (OSBI) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, offers the following testimony regarding **House Bill 6972, "An Act Concerning Fire Safety."**

The State Codes and Standards Committee works with the state building inspector and state fire marshal in adopting and administering the state building and state fire safety codes and hears appeals of fire and building code officials' decisions and actions. The 23-member committee consists of architects, fire marshals, engineers, builders, building officials, and public members, among others. DAS has attached a copy of the current Codes & Standards Committee membership to the back of our testimony for the Committee's review.

C.G.S. § 29-252 states that

(a) The State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, jointly, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, adopt and administer a State Building Code based on a nationally recognized model building code for the purpose of regulating the design, construction and use of buildings or structures to be erected and the alteration of buildings or structures already erected and make such amendments thereto as they, from time to time, deem necessary or desirable. Such amendments shall be limited to administrative matters, geotechnical and weather-related portions of said code, amendments to said code necessitated by a provision of the general statutes and any other matter which, based on substantial evidence, necessitates an amendment to said code.

This bill proposes to alter the membership of the Codes & Standards Committee by 1) changing the definition of one of the professional engineer members and 2) replacing two public members with two local fire marshals.

The Committee was formed with the intention of having a balanced panel that represented all the stakeholders in the construction industry to work with the State Building Inspector and the State Fire Marshal in adoption of State Building and Fire

Safety Codes and to be an appeal body to hear and decide disputes originating from either local or State decisions.

Changing the current make-up of the committee as proposed disrupts this current balance, and undermines the representation of all of the other constituencies represented on the committee.

DAS has strong concerns around continued efforts to alter the composition of this regulatory body and is strongly opposed to Raised Bill 6972.

We thank the Committee for allowing us to provide comment.

Codes and Standards Committee Positions

Position	Member	Appointed
Advocacy	David McKinley	4/15/10
Architect	Louis J. Free	4/21/89
Architect	John Butkus	5/1/98
Building Official	Henry Miga	10/5/05
Building Official	Carlton Smith	4/8/13
Contractor, Building	Glenn Neilson	2/17/99
Contractor, Residential	Robert Hanbury	9/24/97
Energy Efficiency	William Zoeller	11/20/09
Engineer, Electrical	Michael Musco	11/25/02
Engineer, Fire Protection	George Iskra	11/25/02
Engineer, Structural	Thomas DiBlasi	5/12/05
Fire Marshal	Keith Flood	4/8/13
Fire Marshal	Michael Sinsigalli	12/31/03
Health	Anthony Bruno	7/1/11
Labor	Christopher Cozzi	3/12/08
Public Member	Frederick Wajcs, Jr.	11/20/09
Public Member	Vacant	
Public Member	Donald Harwood	11/25/86
Contractor-Electrical Trades	Paul Costello	11/7/13
Contractor-Plumbing Trades	Eric Shutt	2/27/14
Contractor-HVAC Trades	Michael Nero	11/7/13

C&S/POSITIONS
11/13/14