



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 23, 2015

Senator Andrew Maynard, Co-Chair Transportation Committee
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair Transportation Committee
Senator Toni Boucher, Ranking Member Transportation Committee
Representative Tom O'Dea, Ranking Member Transportation Committee

Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. I would like to comment on a two of the bills on the agenda for today's public hearing.

Proposed House Bill #5933 – AAC USE OF RED LIGHTS AND SIRENS BY CHIEFS OF SECURITY AT ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

In a report entitled "Report of the Flashing Light Task Force" pursuant to Public Act 03-265, one of their requirements was to study the safety risks and benefits of the use of flashing lights. One risk listed on Page 10 of the report states, "There is a lack of awareness on the part of the public of the types of vehicles authorized to use flashing or revolving lights. This is compounded by the number of such vehicles on the road."

Additionally, on page 15 of the same report it states, The Task Force recognized a lack of public awareness on how to respond to approaching vehicles displaying a flashing or revolving light."

Without diminishing the duties and responsibilities of Chiefs of Security at Acute Care hospitals, we would question the need that a person, who is quite possibly a private civilian, would require a red light. We would suggest that any response by security personnel would be secondary to a FIRE SERVICE response. We would suggest that the use of red lights has been mostly reserved for fire emergency personnel and additional discipline would create another layer of confusion within the motoring public, as the report states. It would also create confusion within the emergency responder disciplines. Who would have the right-of-way within conflicting driving operations?

We would not be opposed to the authorization of a flashing light of another color, such as yellow/amber which is used as emergency recognition, but not an emergency response.

Raised House Bill #6822 – AAC DMV RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING TECHNICAL & MINOR CHANGES TO THE DMV STATUTES AND THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY LICENSES AND A STUDY OF THE LIMITED LICENSE PROGRAM

It would appear that Sections 18 & 19 of this bill are either clarifications or rewrites of the CGS 14-96p and 14-96q on Flashing Lights and Color of Lights respectively. To this untrained writer, it would appear that there may be either some unanticipated omissions or corrections that would become major restrictions on fire apparatus. In our opinion, if we are correct, one of these items could negatively affects municipalities by millions of dollars. We would request that we have the opportunity to discuss these items with the Committee Chair, LCO attorney, or DMV liaison to clarify these changes.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

RedLight2015