

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

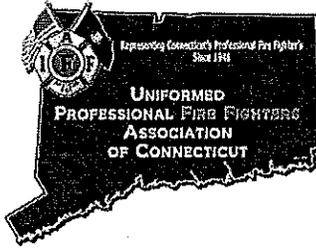
AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

30 Sherman Street, West Hartford, CT 06110

Office: (860) 953-3200 Office Fax: (860) 953-3334

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Peter S. Carozza, Jr., *President*
Richard Hart, Director
Legislative/Political Affairs



Louis P. DeMici, *Secretary*
Robert P. Anthony, *Treasurer*

Good afternoon, Honorable Chairmen Rep. Butler and Sen. Winfield, members of the Housing Committee, my name is Richard Hart. I represent the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut which represents 57 Local affiliates of the International Association of Firefighters. Membership in the UPPFA is comprised of approximately 4,000 Union firefighters in Connecticut.

I am submitting testimony in **strong opposition** of SB 259, AAC Inspections By Fire Marshals.

The Fire Safety Code is complicated, convoluted, and essential for the safety of our citizens. Understanding the code is difficult, but understanding WHY the code exists comes with experience and knowledge gleaned from being immersed in the fire service. There is a process for the certification of Fire Inspectors that must be followed. Sect. 29-298 explicitly details how one becomes certified as a Fire Inspector. This is critical because at least three years experience in fire suppression, hazardous materials response, fire inspection, fire prevention activities, etc, training and classroom work is necessary to learn what inspecting buildings require. Continuing education requirements are stringent and necessary as well. This is not an easy fix, the process of inspection and approval is a complicated and the ramifications of said inspections by an unqualified, undertrained, and inexperienced person has the potential for disaster.

Please do not move SB 259 forward.

Thank you,

Richard Hart

Richard Hart

DIRECTOR

Legislative/Political Affairs