The Connecticut Fire Marshals Assoc.

Fire Marshal Kevin J Kowalski - Legislative rep.
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The CFMA supports SB 120, An Act Concerning the Authority of Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors. This bill will allow the Deputy FM and/or Fire Inspector to give written citations for fire code violations. Both the Local Fire Marshal and State Fire Marshal have oversight in this area. Current statue requires the Fire Marshal only can sign the citation. This is equal to allowing only the police chief to write traffic tickets.

The CFMA supports SB 124, An Act Requiring Smoke Detectors in Residential Buildings. This bill will remove the grandfathered date of 1978 that was legislated in the late 70's when smoke detectors were required in new 1 and 2 family homes. At that time, smoke detectors were new technology and costly, sometimes over $100. Smoke detectors are now much more inexpensive, as low as $5.00 and in many towns, the Fire Department gives them away.

Smoke detectors have saved many lives since they were required but they are only currently required in homes that were built after 1978. It is time to remove the 1978 date to require that all homes are equipped with smoke detectors and to be consistent with current code.

Lines 14-15 in this proposal exclude one and two family homes from the smoke detector mandate. We do not support that section and request that it be addressed by the Committee to ensure that all homes, regardless of building date, are required to have smoke detectors. We also do not support annual inspection of 1 and 2 family homes. We will continue to help with inspecting these homes only upon request and, or complaint.

The CFMA supports HB 5278 and SB 238, both regarding residential sprinkler installation. HB 5272 would allow a local municipal option for sprinklers in new residential dwellings. SB 238 would mandate residential sprinklers in new two-family homes.

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It is a proven fact that these are live saving devices. New homes being built now are filled with light weight construction products and are typically filled with highly flammable plastics and burn and collapse faster than homes built just 20 years ago. The installation of sprinklers was added to both model building and international building codes but have routinely been removed by the pressure from the home builders. We need to follow the national code to to protect our citizens from the perils of fire.

We are in support of 5272 AAC Carbon Monoxide warning in Business and Residential buildings. This bill will remove the restrictive type of Carbon Monoxide warning equipment that is currently required. The original bill allows only specific alarms with a parts per million indicating screen. These are digital alarms that are manufactured by only a few companies. The over 100 Fire Departments in CT that participate in free hand out of CO alarms through the "Operation Save a life" program have approved non-digital 10-year CO alarms. They do not meet this law. They are every bit as good as the digital indicating ones.