



Senate Bill 120
An Act Concerning the Authority of Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors

Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey

Public Safety & Security Committee
March 1, 2016

Good afternoon Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Zupkus, and distinguished members of the Public Safety & Security Committee. I want to thank the Committee for raising this concept on behalf of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Senate Bill 120, An Act Concerning the Authority of Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors, amends C.G.S. § 29-298 (d) to permit local fire marshals to authorize local deputy fire marshals or inspectors to issue citations as described in the Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code. The statute already allows local fire marshals to authorize their deputies and inspectors to issue permits and orders, as well as to certify compliance with fire safety codes. Local fire marshals asked the Office of the State Fire Marshal to seek this statutory change to allow fire marshals to authorize to their deputies and inspectors to sign citations as well. Allowing local fire marshals to delegate this task to deputies and inspectors will help improve municipal operations.

In addition, the proposal makes a technical modification by deleting the word "certified" before deputy fire marshals. There is no certification process for deputy fire marshals; accordingly, describing deputy fire marshals as "certified" is inaccurate. I should note that we suggested one technical deletion of the word certified in line 4; however, after discussions with my staff, LCO has identified another section - C.G.S. §29-297 -- where the word "certified" should also be deleted. The omission of the word "certified" is simply a technical oversight that should have been addressed in past legislative sessions and an oversight on our part.

We hope that you will support this bill.