



**Senate Bill 238
An Act Concerning Municipal Ordinances Regarding Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems in
New Residential Buildings**

Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey

**Public Safety & Security Committee
March 1, 2016**

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) houses the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Office of the State Building Inspector, which are responsible for State Fire Safety Code, State Fire Prevention Code, the State Building Code and other code-related matters. DAS offers the following comments on Raised Bill 238, An Act Concerning Municipal Ordinances Regarding Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems in New Residential Buildings.

C.G.S. § 29-315 establishes the state-wide requirements relating to automatic fire extinguishing systems in various types of buildings: new homes with four or more stories, hotels and motels, senior housing, and residential buildings with twelve or more units occupied by elderly. This statute also outlines the authority of the State Fire Marshal and the State Building Inspector, as well as the State Codes and Standards Committee, in relation to certain elements of these requirements.

Senate Bill 238 proposes to amend this statute to allow municipalities to adopt their own ordinances to require automatic fire extinguishing systems in one- and two-family homes. DAS opposes Senate Bill 238 because it would result in different standards for different municipalities. When this Legislature first enacted the State Fire Code, the Fire Safety Code and the Building Code, it intended to provide for uniformity throughout the State. Municipalities have the ability to participate in and inform the code adoption process, but once the Codes are established, they must be consistently applied across the State. To do otherwise would create confusion among the industries attempting to comply with the various local requirements and unduly complicate the administration and enforcement of these important safety standards.

Thank you for allowing DAS to comment on this bill.