



The Connecticut Fire Marshals Assoc.

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SB 259 An Act Concerning Inspections by Fire Marshals

Senator Winfield, Representative Butler, members of the Housing Committee, my name is Kevin Kowalski and I represent the CT Fire Marshals Association. I have been in the fire service for the last 40 years and Fire Marshal of Simsbury for the last 30 years.

The CFMA cannot support Senate Bill 259 as drafted. Current statute allows for several ways to obtain certification by the State Fire Marshal. This bill appears to allow persons that are not certified or trained to perform inspections.

Additionally, C.G.A. 29-305 requires local fire marshals or their designees to conduct inspections on buildings and facilities regulated by the Fire Safety Code, which establishes the circumstances under which a local fire marshal may delegate authority to deputy fire marshals, fire inspectors or other qualified inspectors or investigators. These individuals, acting under the direction and supervision of the local fire marshal, issue permits or orders or to certify compliance with the Code.

As drafted, this bill is unclear on who would be held liable for any errors in the inspection. Violations that could lead to injury, or possibly death are a potential consequence. There could also be instances where an untrained inspector would require high cost protectives that are not required by code.

We are available to discuss alternatives to this legislation. Thank you.