

Summary of sHB 6954

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Issue

Analyze sHB 6954: An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Inspections of Residential Buildings by Local Fire Marshals, reported favorably by the Public Safety and Security Committee on March 15, 2017.

Summary

This bill establishes a 10- member task force to study residential building inspections performed by local fire marshals. It requires the task force to examine the feasibility of:

1. prioritizing the inspection schedule for residential buildings based on (a) their type and age and (b) the use of fire suppression systems in such buildings,
2. creating a new type of certified inspector to inspect just residential buildings,
3. expanding options for municipalities to create programs to encourage landlords to schedule inspections for their residential buildings, and
4. improving enforcement of the law governing fire marshals' building inspection schedule.

The task force consists of (1) the administrative services commissioner, or her designee; (2) the state fire marshal, or his designee; and (3) eight members appointed by legislative leadership, representing the fire community, landlords, and municipalities.

By February 1, 2018, the task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee, at which point it terminates.

The bill takes effect upon passage.

Appointed Members

Task force members must be appointed as follows and vacancies filled by appointing authorities:

1. two by the House speaker, one of them the mayor of a city with a population of more than 100,000;
2. two by the Senate president pro tempore, one of them a fire marshal of a city with a population of more than 100,000;
3. one by the House majority leader, who must be a fire chief of a city with a population of more than 100,000;
4. one by the Senate majority leader, who must be a member of the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association;
5. one by the House minority leader, who represents residential landlords; and
6. one by the Senate minority leader, who must be an attorney experienced in representing municipalities.

All appointments must be made not later than 30 days after the bill takes effect. Any appointee may be a legislator.

Meetings and Administration

The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons from among the task force members. The chairpersons must schedule the first task force meeting by the 60th day after the bill takes effect.

Under the bill, the Public Safety and Security Committee's administrative staff serves as administrative staff of the task force.

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