



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 177

February Session, 2018

House Bill No. 5226

House of Representatives, April 4, 2018

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. VERRENGIA of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING LEAVE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING
IN A CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 5-249 of the general statutes is amended by adding
2 subsection (f) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 (NEW) (f) Any state employee who is a volunteer of a local
4 organization for civil preparedness, established pursuant to section 28-
5 7, may, with the authorization of such employee's supervisor, be
6 granted a leave not to exceed fifteen working days in each year to
7 assist in a civil preparedness emergency or local civil preparedness
8 emergency, upon the request of the local chief executive authority, the
9 Governor or the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
10 Protection and in accordance with the provisions of section 28-7,
11 without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime
12 accumulation. For the purposes of this subsection, "civil preparedness
13 emergency" and "local civil preparedness emergency" have the same

14 meaning as provided in section 28-1.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	5-249

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Various State Agencies	App Fund - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: App Fund=All Appropriated Funds

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows state employees to take paid leave for up to 15 working days a year to volunteer in civil preparedness emergencies.

To the extent that an employee assists with an emergency there may be a potential cost to cover the work responsibilities of the employee out on paid leave. For example, the replacement cost of a State Police Trooper would be at least \$220/day or possibly higher if overtime was used to cover the employee's shift.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5226*****AN ACT CONCERNING LEAVE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING IN A CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows state employees who volunteer with local civil preparedness organizations to take up to 15 working days of approved leave in a year to help with disaster relief without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave, or earned overtime.

Under the bill, such an employee must (1) receive approval for the leave from his or her supervisor and (2) be responding to a request for assistance from a local chief executive authority, the governor, or the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner during a civil preparedness emergency. The bill applies to civil preparedness emergencies declared by the (1) chief executive officer of any town experiencing a serious disaster, or (2) governor in the event or imminence of a serious disaster or enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action in Connecticut or a neighboring state.

Existing law already provides the same leave time and protection to state employees who are certified American Red Cross disaster service volunteers so that they may participate in specialized disaster relief services for the organization at its request (CGS § 5-249(b)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

BACKGROUND***Civil Preparedness Organizations and Forces***

By law, each town must establish or join with other towns to establish a local civil preparedness organization in accordance with the

state civil preparedness plan and program. The organization performs civil preparedness functions within its territorial limits. In the event of a serious disaster or sudden emergency necessitating action to protect health and safety, the governor or the DESPP commissioner may, when requested by the local chief executive authority, authorize the temporary use of these organizations, with their consent (CGS § 28-7).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 5 (03/16/2018)