



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 11, 2021

Senator Dennis Bradley, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Maria Horn, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Senator Dan Champagne, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Robin Green, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee

Members of the Public Safety & Security Committee

Subject Matter: VARIOUS PUBLIC SAFETY BILLS

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 career and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. We would like to comment on several bills on the agenda for today's public hearing.

S. B. #123 *AA Increasing The Penalty For The Intentional Injury of a Police Animal or Dog In a Volunteer Canine Search and Rescue Team.

We SUPPORT this initiative. These animals are an integral part of these search teams

H. B. #5078 *AAC A Study of Technology That Police Officers, Firefighters And Emergency Medical Services Personnel May Use When Responding To Opioid Overdoses

We have an interest upon reading the subject of this bill. We would request that Fire Service personnel with some expertise in the subject be included in the make-up of this study group.

H. B. #5412 *AA Naming The Troop K State Police Barracks in Colchester in Honor of Linda A. Orange

We SUPPORT this initiative. Rep. Orange was a constant supporter of all Fire Service organizations and activities. Any tribute in her honor is richly deserved.

H. B. #5722 *AA Exempting From The Personal Income Tax Stipends Paid To Volunteer Firefighters And Volunteer Ambulance Members

We SUPPORT this initiative. It would appear that this initiative is a follow-up to Federal Legislation named the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA) passed the U. S. Congress in December 2020.

H. B. #6304 *AAC Just Cause Dismissals For Municipal Fire Chiefs

We SUPPORT this initiative. We have submitted separate documents on this subject. We would request that legislators avail themselves to our opinions on this subject with these separate documents.

H. B. #6046 *AAC The Sale and Use Of Consumer Grade Fireworks

WE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE. Although we are certain that the proponents of this bill will speak to the fiscal benefits to the State of Connecticut, our opinion is that the fiscal benefits do not outweigh the risk of fire, death or severe maiming that has and likely could occur to the public.

*We must note that all the bills we have listed, except S.B. #123 are Proposed Bills and our support or non-support is predicated on the language of each proposal. If any bill language changes because of the status of the bill, we reserve the ability to change our level of support.

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