

Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5176

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE POWERS, DUTIES, BENEFITS AND

Title: CLASSIFICATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS.

Vote Date: 3/1/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/22/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security

REASONS FOR BILL:

Classifying dispatchers as first responders will allow them to be formally recognized for the job they perform. Dispatchers all around the world save lives daily as they are the first voice of help. Recognizing the importance of the job that Public Safety Telecommunicators do each and every day will allow access to more critical support services. This will also show/ prove that legislators acknowledge and support the important work that they do

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

NONE.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut State Firefighter Association supports this bill. The CSFA respectfully, and happily volunteers their expertise and experience for this study group, as their membership both lifelong Career and Volunteer alike, can bring firsthand knowledge on the intended scope of the Study.

Brian Anderson Legislative Director for Council 4 AFSCME's supports this bill. Emergency dispatchers are heroes. They save lives every day. Their members support any effort to increase their compensation and benefits

Robert Glaspy Director of External Affairs for the Connecticut Association of Paramedics and EMTs supports this bill. This bill will seemingly recognize the need to and help standardize the definition or term of "first responder".

Patricia Southworth Clemens, 911 dispatcher City of Milford Fire/EMS dispatcher

supports this bill. When a phone rings dispatcher are the true First Responders. They are the first who answers the call for help. They have to answer the call, dispatch the call, provide potentially lifesaving instructions along with monitoring the responding units and their safety during the entire incident, ensuring accurate time keeping and documentation for each incident.

Maureen A. Will CPE, RPL Director supports this bill. Strongly stands by the fact that they are the unseen voices to those who are in crisis. They are the ones who provide lifesaving instructions while operating computer systems, two-way radios and other telephones.

Joshua Wrinn Telecommunicator and Dispatch Supervisor for the City of Norwalk Connecticut supports this bill. This bill would help correctly classify telecommunicators, as well as police officers, firefighters, and EMS as first responders in the state of Connecticut.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

NONE

Reported by: Fabializ N Najera

Date: 3/9/2022