

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5236

AN ACT CONCERNING ARCHITECTS WHO VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT COMPENSATION ASSIST PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN EVALUATING THE SAFETY ELEMENTS OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF A MAJOR

Title: DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.

Vote Date: 4/4/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB 5236 offers legal protections to qualified architects who volunteer to assess safety and habitability of structures following a major disaster or emergency. Many areas of the United States are experiencing an increase in extreme weather, and there has been a push in many states to provide protections and protect those who volunteer to assist the state during emergencies to both save costs and supplement preparedness.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Given

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

American Institute of Architects Connecticut - Gina Calabro, Executive Director/CEO

Ms. Calabro submitted testimony in favor of 5236. She explains that architects are obligated under their licensure board rules of professional conduct to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and so in extreme circumstances, they are called upon to assess the safety and habitability of affected areas, supplementing and assisting disaster response staff. This significantly reduces the need for and cost of temporary shelters and emergency services. Connecticut has over 50 licensed architects who have completed a safety assessment program that certifies them as Building Evaluators. HB 5236 would provide legal protection to

qualified architects who volunteer to assist without compensation, as many other states have done already.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Given

Reported by: Foster Hall

Date: 4/9/2022