



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5236

LCO No. 1671



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

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 DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Built environment" means a human-made environment,
3 including: (A) Homes, (B) buildings, (C) streets, (D) sidewalks, (E)
4 parks, and (F) transportation, energy and other infrastructure; and
- 5 (2) "Public safety official" means:
- 6 (A) A state or municipal police officer or firefighter;
- 7 (B) A building official or assistant building official appointed under
8 sections 29-260 and 29-261 of the general statutes, or the State Building
9 Inspector appointed under section 29-252 of the general statutes, or such
10 inspector's designee;
- 11 (C) A member of a community emergency response team that is

12 activated by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
13 Protection, a local emergency preparedness official or a municipal police
14 agency;

15 (D) An official from the Department of Emergency Services and
16 Public Protection; or

17 (E) An official from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

18 (b) Any architect licensed pursuant to chapter 390 of the general
19 statutes who, at the request of, under the direction of or in connection
20 with a public safety official, voluntarily and without compensation, acts
21 in good faith to assist such official evaluating the safety of elements of a
22 built environment in the aftermath of a major disaster or emergency, as
23 those terms are defined in section 28-1 of the general statutes, shall:

24 (1) Be held to the same standard of care applicable to a public safety
25 official who would have performed an evaluation of the safety elements
26 of a built environment, if not for the major disaster or emergency, and

27 (2) Be subject to civil liability only upon a finding that the architect
28 failed to act as a reasonably prudent public safety official, as applicable
29 to the circumstances, would have acted under the same or similar
30 circumstances.

31 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall exclusively
32 apply to acts or omissions by an architect that occur during the time
33 period that a declaration of a civil preparedness emergency pursuant to
34 section 28-9 of the general statutes is effective or for sixty days after the
35 issuance of such declaration, whichever is longer.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide legal protections to architects who voluntarily and without compensation assist public officials in evaluating the safety elements of built environments in the aftermath of a major disaster or emergency.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]