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## OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6553

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMBULANCE COMPANIES AND THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER UNDER THE STATE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires a volunteer fire department or volunteer ambulance company to comply with the state's Occupational Safety and Health Act (Conn-OSHA) as an employer unless it is regulated by the federal OSHA law. By law, Conn-OSHA governs workplace safety for the state and its political subdivisions as employers; so, certain non-governmental volunteer fire and ambulance companies are not considered under its jurisdiction. They are, generally, not covered by federal OSHA unless they are privately chartered and have paid employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Case***

In *Mayfield v. Goshen Volunteer Fire Company* (301 Conn. 739 (2011)), the state Supreme Court ruled that a privately chartered volunteer fire company is not a political subdivision of the state (and not subject to Conn-OSHA jurisdiction) if it is not controlled by a municipality or municipal officials.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9      Nay 2      (02/16/2023)