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## OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6553 (as amended by House "A")\*

### ***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 current jurisdiction. They are, generally, not covered by federal OSHA unless they are privately chartered and have paid employees.

\*House Amendment "A" changes the bill's effective date from upon passage to October 1, 2023.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

#### **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)

