

House of Representatives, March 26, 1998. The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. COCCO, 127th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY VEHICLE STATUS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a)  
2 of section 14-1 of the general statutes is  
3 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
4 thereof:

5 (4) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means (A)  
6 a fire department vehicle, (B) a police vehicle,  
7 [or] (C) a public service company or municipal  
8 department ambulance OR (D) AN OFFICE OF EMERGENCY  
9 MANAGEMENT VEHICLE or emergency vehicle designated  
10 or authorized for use as an authorized emergency  
11 vehicle by the commissioner.

12 Sec. 2. Section 29-316 of the general  
13 statutes is repealed and the following is  
14 substituted in lieu thereof:

15 "Fuel oil burner", as used herein, means any  
16 device designed and arranged to burn fuel oil to  
17 obtain warmth in dwellings and other buildings or  
18 for cooking purposes. Until January 1, 1988, no  
19 fuel oil burner shall be sold, offered for sale or  
20 installed, unless the make and type of such oil  
21 burner has been approved by the commissioner and a  
22 written certificate of approval has been issued by

23 him. The commissioner may, if no such burner is in  
24 operation within the state, require the applicant  
25 for approval of a fuel oil burner to install a  
26 complete equipment at such place as the  
27 commissioner may designate and to furnish such  
28 plans and specifications as he may require. On and  
29 after January 1, 1988, no fuel oil burner shall be  
30 sold, offered for sale or installed, unless such  
31 burner has been approved by a nationally  
32 recognized testing laboratory acceptable to the  
33 State Fire Marshal. [The State Fire Marshal shall  
34 adopt regulations in accordance with the  
35 provisions of chapter 54 specifying the names of  
36 the laboratories which are acceptable.] The warden  
37 or burgesses of a borough, the selectmen of a  
38 town, the common council of a city or the  
39 commissioners of a fire district may enact rules  
40 and regulations for the installation of fuel oil  
41 burners, equipment therefor and fuel oil storage  
42 tanks. Any person who violates any provision  
43 hereof shall be fined not more than one hundred  
44 dollars.

45 PS COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 22 NAY 0 JFS C/R TRA  
46 TRA COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 8 NAY 4 JF

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5513**

STATE IMPACT	Minimal Savings (General Fund), Potential Minimal Cost and Potential Minimal Revenue Gain (Transportation Fund), see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Departments of Public Safety and Motor Vehicles

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The passage of this bill would result in minimal savings to the Department of Public Safety resulting from the elimination of the requirement that the agency adopt regulations on acceptable fuel oil burners. The bill would also grant emergency vehicle status to Office of Emergency Management vehicles. Since these vehicles would be allowed to use flashing lights, this could create minimal costs for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from the issuance of permits, and could yield minimal revenues from the \$7 permit fee.

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**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

sHB 5513

**AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY VEHICLE STATUS FOR  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS**

**SUMMARY:** This bill defines Office of Emergency Management vehicles as emergency vehicles for certain limited purposes. It (1) allows them to be equipped with sirens or other audible devices and to use them when responding to emergencies; (2) allows them to use flashing lights through a permit process established by the motor vehicle commissioner; and (3) prohibits property owners, lessees, or agents from having these vehicles towed from their property. But it does not allow them to do some things that other emergency vehicles may do with respect to parking or standing, proceeding through stop lights and stop signs, exceeding speed limits, and disregarding statutes or ordinances governing movement direction or turning.

The bill also eliminates a requirement that the state fire marshal adopt regulations naming acceptable laboratories for approving fuel oil burners. By law, a nationally recognized testing laboratory acceptable to him must approve such burners sold, offered for sale, or installed in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

**FURTHER EXPLANATION****Emergency Vehicle Definition**

The term "emergency vehicle" is defined twice in the motor vehicle laws. The first, which the bill changes to include Office of Emergency Management vehicles, is a rather general definition in the definition section of Title 14 stating that an "authorized emergency vehicle" means a fire department vehicle, a police vehicle, or a public service company or municipal department ambulance or emergency vehicle "designated or authorized for use as an authorized emergency vehicle by the [motor vehicle] commissioner." By including Office of Emergency Management vehicles under this definition, the bill allows these vehicles to, among other things, (1) have and use sirens, (2) use

flashing lights through a permit process established by the commissioner, and (3) park on private property without being towed by the property owner.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Emergency Vehicle Definition**

A more specific definition of emergency vehicles appears in the motor vehicle law that establishes the rights of emergency vehicles on the public highways. In this context, an emergency vehicle includes (1) any ambulance or emergency medical service organization vehicle responding to an emergency call; (2) any vehicle used by a fire department or by an officer of a fire department while on the way to a fire or an emergency call, but not while returning; or (3) any state or local police vehicle operated by an officer answering an emergency call or in pursuit of fleeing law violators.

For vehicles that meet this definition, the law provides exemptions from restrictions that otherwise would apply with respect to vehicle parking or standing, proceeding through stop lights and stop signs (provided the vehicle is slowed to the degree necessary for safe operation), exceeding posted or other speed limits, and disregarding statutes or ordinances governing movement direction or turning.

To qualify for these exemptions, most emergency vehicles must be using an audible warning signal device and visible flashing or revolving lights that meet specific statutory requirements. State or local police vehicles need only use an audible warning signal.

### **Office of Emergency Management**

This office, located within the Department of Public Safety, is responsible for coordinating the state response to major emergencies.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference  
Yea 22      Nay 0

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 8      Nay 4