
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5213

AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES FOR RESPONDING TO CALLS ON LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS AND AT CERTAIN OTHER LOCATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the state to pay volunteer fire companies for responding to calls on designated highways. Under the bill, the State Fire Administrator must pay \$700 per call to volunteer fire companies responding to calls on:

1. limited access highways;
2. the section of the Berlin Turnpike, which begins at the end of the Wilbur Cross Parkway in Meriden and extends north along Route 15 to the South Meadows Expressway in Wethersfield; and
3. the section of Route 8 in Beacon Falls within the Naugatuck State Forest.

The bill additionally authorizes the State Fire Administrator to make volunteer fire companies responsible for extinguishing fires on any portion of these highways where no fire protection is otherwise provided. He must pay these companies an additional \$700 per year for doing so.

The bill also eliminates a defunct supplemental grant award remittance program for volunteer fire companies that provide emergency response services on these same highways.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Limited Access Highways

The Department of Transportation commissioner, with the governor

and attorney general's advice and consent, designates as limited access highways the state highways (or portion of them) that are accessible only at highway intersections or designated points (CGS § 13b-27). The Office of the State Traffic Administration annually publishes a list of these limited access highways (CGS § 14-298).

Limited Access Highway Reimbursement Program

Under prior law, the Limited Access Highway Reimbursement Program paid volunteer fire companies \$100 per call for responding to calls on the same highways described above (CGS § 13a-248). The legislature eliminated the program in 2003, as part of the FY 04-05 budget implementation act. It subsequently enacted the supplemental grant award remittance program in 2005.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - APP
Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/08/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/07/2022)