

# Planning and Development Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5423

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO COLLECT DATA RELATED  
**Title:** TO FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE STATE.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/14/2022

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

To allow Connecticut fire and rescue services to participate in a pilot program to collect data.

Substitute language:

- This replaces OPM as the program administrator with DESPP in consultation with DAS, the State Fire Marshal, OPM, and the Commission on Fire Protection and Control. The five major regional fire dispatch centers as identified by the Fire 2025 Summit Conference may also be admitted to the pilot program upon request.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Martin Heft, Undersecretary, Office of Policy and Management \(OPM\)](#): OPM recommends this pilot program be under the agency with proper purview of subject matter, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection with cooperation with the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[James Baldis, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company](#): Data collection involving fire and safety rescue is a valuable and critical tool for fire departments around Connecticut, but "it has a long way to go" and should be developed so that all departments across the state can be able to utilize it effectively. Therefore, the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company supports [H.B. 5423](#), so that there may be a "unified approach in data collection versus having various data collection methods that may not be compatible in providing a clear picture." That way, all

fire departments and their respective communities can "see specifics of how their fire service performs," and it will showcase where they can save money or where they may invest funds.

[Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, Town of Fairfield:](#)

Testifying on behalf of the Fire 2025 Summit, Mr. McCarthy supports [H.B. 5423](#), which is the "first step [in] addressing the disparity of lifesaving service in CT." The Summit recommends using the National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS), which "will interface with Local and Regional Dispatch Centers Computer Aided Dispatch software." The data collected from this software will allow departments across the state to "understand where their greatest needs are and where gaps...exist," and this "critical data" will help "to develop cost effective and efficient solutions."

[Marc Scrivener, President, Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association:](#) The Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association supports [H.B. 5423](#) and "stand[s] with Fairfield Fire Chief Denis McCarthy and the entire Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations" in supporting the 3-year pilot program that was proposed. Also, the Association recommends utilizing the "NFORS/FireCares analytics" software provide by the International Public Safety Institute.

[Mark Worsman, Chief, New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department:](#) Testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, Mr. Worsman supports [H.B. 5423](#) "for the betterment of our state's fire service," and in order "to develop effective and efficient solutions to the myriad of all hazardous events we face each day." Quality data can determine the cause of a problem and "allows an organization to measure the effectiveness of a given strategy." Unfortunately, Connecticut lacks in the collection of data and the effective utilization of this data, and [H.B. 5423](#) would change this "in order to continue to support our mission of saving lives and protecting property."

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Austin Hyatt**

**Date: March 21, 2022**