



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6838

LCO No. 4901



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DIVISION OF FIRE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, REVISING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE FIRE SERVICE IN THE STATE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-1b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) There shall be within the Department of Emergency Services and
4 Public Protection a Division of State Police. The Commissioner of
5 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall serve as administrative
6 head and commanding officer of the State Police Division. As
7 administrative head, said commanding officer of the Division of State
8 Police shall delegate said commanding officer's jurisdiction of the affairs
9 of the Division of State Police to a deputy commissioner who shall have
10 the powers and privileges conferred by statute upon a state policeman.

11 (b) There shall be within said department a Division of Emergency

12 Management and Homeland Security. The commissioner shall serve as
13 administrative head of said division. As administrative head, said
14 commissioner shall delegate said commissioner's jurisdiction of the
15 Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to a
16 deputy commissioner. The deputy commissioner shall possess
17 professional training and knowledge consisting of not less than five
18 years of managerial or strategic planning experience in matters relating
19 to public safety, security, emergency services and emergency response.
20 No person possessing a record of any criminal, unlawful or unethical
21 conduct shall be eligible for or hold such position. Any person with any
22 present or past political activities or financial interests that may
23 substantially conflict with the duties of the deputy commissioner or
24 expose such person to potential undue influence or compromise such
25 person's ability to be entrusted with necessary state or federal security
26 clearances or information shall be deemed unqualified for such position
27 and shall not be eligible to hold such position.

28 (c) (1) There shall be within said department a Division of Fire
29 Services Administration. The commissioner shall serve as
30 administrative head of said division. As administrative head, said
31 commissioner shall delegate said commissioner's jurisdiction of the
32 Division of Fire Services Administration to a deputy commissioner. The
33 deputy commissioner shall possess professional training and
34 knowledge consisting of not less than five years of managerial or
35 strategic planning experience in matters relating to the fire services.

36 (2) The functions, powers, duties and personnel of the former Office
37 of State Fire Administrator shall be transferred to the Division of Fire
38 Services Administration pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-38d
39 and 4-39.

40 (3) The Division of Fire Services Administration shall constitute the
41 successor to the Office of State Fire Administrator in accordance with
42 the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39. Wherever the words
43 "State Fire Administrator" are used in the general statutes, the words
44 "Deputy Director of the Division of Fire Services Administration within

45 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection" shall be
46 substituted in lieu thereof. Wherever the words "Office of State Fire
47 Administrator" are used in the general statutes, the words "Division of
48 Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency
49 Services and Public Protection" shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Any
50 order or regulation of the former Office of State Fire Administrator that
51 is in force on the effective date of this section shall continue in force and
52 effect as an order or regulation of the Division of Fire Services
53 Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and
54 Public Protection until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to
55 law.

56 Sec. 2. Section 7-323l of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

58 (a) The commission shall:

59 (1) Recommend minimum standards of education and physical
60 condition required of each candidate for any firefighter position;

61 (2) Establish standards for [a] fire service training and education
62 [program, on a voluntary basis] programs, and develop and conduct an
63 examination program to certify those fire service personnel who
64 satisfactorily demonstrate their ability to meet the requirements of the
65 fire service training and education program standards;

66 (3) Establish an optional fire service training and education program
67 in the handling of incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles
68 and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or
69 nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum for such
70 techniques is made available at no cost from (A) institutions of higher
71 education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are
72 concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder,
73 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B)
74 collaborations of such institutions, professionals or organizations;

75 (4) Conduct fire fighting training and education programs designed

76 to assist firefighters in developing and maintaining their skills and
77 keeping abreast of technological advances in fire suppression, fire
78 protection, fire prevention and related fields;

79 (5) Recommend standards for promotion to the various ranks of fire
80 departments;

81 (6) Be authorized, with the approval of the Commissioner of
82 Emergency Services and Public Protection, to apply for, receive and
83 distribute any state, federal or private funds or contributions available
84 for training and education of fire fighting personnel;

85 (7) Recommend that the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
86 Public Protection approve or reject the establishment of, or, when
87 appropriate, suspend or revoke the approval of, regional fire schools in
88 accordance with section 7-323u; [and]

89 (8) Be authorized to distribute any state, federal or private funds or
90 contributions for the daily operation of the state fire school and regional
91 fire schools;

92 (9) Coordinate activities with the deputy commissioner of the
93 Division of State Fire Services Administration within the Department of
94 Emergency Services and Public Protection;

95 (10) Annually submit proposals for legislation to promote firefighter
96 training to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
97 Protection and provide testimony to the General Assembly; and

98 [(8)] (11) Submit to the Governor, the [Joint Legislative Management
99 Committee of the General Assembly] joint standing committee of the
100 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
101 and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and the
102 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection an annual
103 report (A) relating to the activities, recommendations and
104 accomplishments of the commission, and (B) making recommendations
105 on the funding necessary for the operation of, the maintenance of and

106 capital improvements to the state fire school and regional fire schools.

107 (b) The commission may recommend, and the Commissioner of
108 Emergency Services and Public Protection may adopt, regulations in
109 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 as necessary to implement
110 the provisions of this section.

111 Sec. 3. Section 7-323n of the general statutes is repealed and the
112 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

113 [There is established an Office of State Fire Administration, which
114 office] The Division of State Fire Services Administration within the
115 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall: (a)
116 Carry out the provisions of this part; (b) administer the state's
117 responsibilities under federal laws relevant to fire service; (c) develop a
118 master plan for fire prevention and control; and (d) carry out any other
119 function which the commission may devise. [Subject to the provisions
120 of chapter 67, the commission may appoint such clerical and other
121 assistants as it may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this
122 section.]

123 Sec. 4. Section 7-323o of the general statutes is repealed and the
124 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

125 (a) [There is established the position of State Fire Administrator who
126 shall be recommended by the Commission on Fire Prevention and
127 Control and appointed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
128 Public Protection and who] The deputy commissioner of the Division of
129 Fire Services Administration shall:

130 (1) Carry out the requirements of section 7-323n, as amended by this
131 act;

132 (2) [administer] Administer federal funds and grants allocated to the
133 fire services of the state;

134 (3) [provide] Provide technical assistance and guidance to fire
135 fighting forces of any state or municipal agency;

136 (4) [develop] Develop a centralized information and audiovisual
137 library regarding fire prevention and control;

138 (5) [accumulate] Accumulate, disseminate and analyze fire
139 prevention data;

140 (6) [recommend] Recommend specifications of fire service materials
141 and equipment and assist in the purchasing thereof;

142 (7) [assist] Assist in mutual aid coordination;

143 (8) [coordinate] Coordinate fire programs with those of the other
144 states;

145 (9) [assist] Assist in communications coordination;

146 (10) [establish] Establish and maintain a fire service information
147 program; [and]

148 (11) [review] Review the purchase of fire apparatus or equipment at
149 state institutions, facilities and properties; [and, on and after July 1, 1985,
150 coordinate the training and education of fire service personnel at such
151 institutions, facilities and properties]

152 (12) Prepare, recommend and provide reports on revisions,
153 consolidations or compilations of statutes relating to firefighter training
154 and fire prevention and control;

155 (13) Advise and assist the Commission on Fire Prevention and
156 Control regarding legislative proposals;

157 (14) Encourage the expansion and improvement of existing local
158 firefighter training facilities in cooperation with the Commission on Fire
159 Prevention and Control;

160 (15) Administer the state fire school;

161 (16) Administer certification examinations, testing procedures and
162 reciprocity recognition for credentials in the fire service disciplines; and

163 (17) Make recommendations to the Commission on Fire Prevention
164 and Control pertaining to the operational funding of the state fire school
165 and regional fire schools.

166 (b) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to
167 forest fire prevention and control programs administered by the
168 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant to
169 sections 23-33 to 23-57, inclusive.

170 Sec. 5. Section 7-313m of the general statutes is repealed and the
171 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

172 (a) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the chief
173 of a volunteer fire department for a distressed municipality, as defined
174 in section 32-9p, shall submit to the [State Fire Administrator] deputy
175 commissioner of the Division of Fire Services Administration within the
176 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection a report on
177 the yearly average of the number of volunteer firefighters from such
178 municipality's volunteer fire department who enrolled in Firefighter I
179 certification and recruit training based on the preceding four years,
180 except the year commencing January 1, 2020, shall not be included in
181 any such four preceding years for purposes of calculating such average.

182 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and each fiscal year
183 thereafter, the [State Fire Administrator] Division of Fire Services
184 Administration shall award a grant to any distressed municipality with
185 a volunteer fire department for the purposes of covering costs related to
186 the provision of Firefighter I certification and recruit training for
187 volunteer firefighters at regional fire schools. The amount of such grant
188 award for each such distressed municipality shall be equal to the
189 product of (1) the average cost of a Firefighter I certification and recruit
190 training program at a regional fire school, and (2) the average number
191 of volunteer firefighters from such distressed municipality's volunteer
192 fire department who enrolled at a regional fire school for such
193 certification and training.

194 (c) Not later than February 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the [State

195 Fire Administrator] Division of Fire Services Administration shall
196 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
197 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
198 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies a
199 report on the (1) reports submitted by the chiefs of volunteer fire
200 departments of distressed municipalities pursuant to subsection (a) of
201 this section, and (2) average cost of a Firefighter I certification and
202 recruit training program at a regional fire school.

203 Sec. 6. Section 7-323s of the general statutes is repealed and the
204 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

205 (a) The [State Fire Administrator] deputy commissioner of the
206 Division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of
207 Emergency Services and Public Protection, within available
208 appropriations, shall develop model guidelines, on or before January 1,
209 2007, to be used by municipalities with paid municipal emergency
210 personnel and municipalities with volunteer emergency personnel in
211 entering into agreements authorizing volunteer emergency personnel to
212 serve during personal time.

213 (b) A municipality with paid municipal emergency personnel and a
214 municipality with volunteer emergency personnel may enter into an
215 agreement authorizing paid emergency personnel to serve during
216 personal time as active members of a volunteer fire department in the
217 municipality in which they reside. In developing such agreements, such
218 municipalities shall consider the model guidelines developed by the
219 [State Fire Administrator] deputy commissioner of the Division of Fire
220 Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services
221 and Public Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

222 (c) The municipalities that are parties to an agreement entered into
223 under subsection (b) of this section may request the Labor
224 Commissioner to provide assistance, within available appropriations, in
225 resolving such issues arising out of the agreement as the commissioner
226 deems appropriate.

227 Sec. 7. Section 7-323v of the general statutes is repealed and the
228 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

229 (a) The [State Fire Administrator] deputy commissioner of the
230 Division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of
231 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, within available
232 appropriations, pay five hundred dollars to each volunteer fire
233 company for each call to which it responds on (1) a limited access
234 highway, designated pursuant to section 13b-27, (2) the section of the
235 highway known as the Berlin Turnpike, which begins at the end of the
236 existing Wilbur Cross Parkway in the town of Meriden and extends
237 northerly along Route 15 to the beginning of a section of limited access
238 highway in the town of Wethersfield known as South Meadows
239 Expressway, or (3) the section of Route 8 in the town of Beacon Falls
240 which is within the boundaries of the Naugatuck State Forest.

241 (b) No municipality that provides funds to a volunteer fire company
242 may reduce such funding based on the payments that such company
243 receives, or is anticipated to receive, under subsection (a) of this section.

244 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 22a-601 of the general statutes is
245 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
246 *1, 2023*):

247 (a) There is established a Connecticut Emergency Response
248 Commission which shall be within the Department of Energy and
249 Environmental Protection. The commission shall consist of eighteen
250 members as follows: The Commissioners of Energy and Environmental
251 Protection, Emergency Services and Public Protection, Public Health
252 and Transportation, the Labor Commissioner, the Secretary of the Office
253 of Policy and Management, the Adjutant General of the Military
254 Department, the State Fire Marshal, and the [State Fire Administrator]
255 deputy commissioner of the Division of Fire Services Administration
256 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or
257 their designees or a designee, and nine members appointed by the
258 Governor, four of whom shall represent the public, three of whom shall

259 represent owners or operators of facilities, one of whom shall be the fire
260 chief of a municipal fire department whose employees are compensated
261 for their services and one of whom shall be the fire chief of a volunteer
262 fire department. Members of the commission appointed by the
263 Governor shall serve for two years. The Governor shall fill any vacancy
264 in the office of an appointed member for the unexpired portion of the
265 term. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but
266 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance
267 of their duties. The chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by
268 the Governor and shall serve at his pleasure.

269 Sec. 9. Section 28-29a of the general statutes is repealed and the
270 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

271 (a) There is established an E 9-1-1 Commission to (1) advise the
272 division in the planning, design, implementation and coordination of
273 the state-wide emergency 9-1-1 telephone system created pursuant to
274 sections 28-25 to 28-29b, inclusive, and (2) in consultation with the
275 Coordinating Advisory Board established pursuant to section 29-1t,
276 advise the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
277 in the planning, design, implementation, coordination and governance
278 of the public safety data network established pursuant to section 29-1j.

279 (b) The commission shall be appointed by the Governor and shall
280 consist of the following members: (1) One representative from the
281 technical support services unit of the Division of State Police within the
282 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; (2) the [State
283 Fire Administrator] deputy commissioner of the Division of Fire
284 Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services
285 and Public Protection; (3) one representative from the Office of
286 Emergency Medical Services; (4) one representative from the Division
287 of Emergency Management and Homeland Security within the
288 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; (5) the
289 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the
290 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the
291 commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of Children and

292 Families, or the commissioner's designee; (8) one municipal police chief;
 293 (9) one municipal fire chief; (10) one volunteer fireman; (11) one
 294 representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities; (12) one
 295 representative of the Council of Small Towns; (13) one representative of
 296 telecommunicators, as defined in section 28-30; (14) one representative
 297 of the public; (15) one manager or coordinator of 9-1-1 public safety
 298 answering points serving areas of differing population concentration;
 299 and (16) one representative of providers of commercial mobile radio
 300 services, as defined in 47 Code of Federal Regulations 20.3, as amended.
 301 Each member shall serve for a term of three years from the date of his
 302 or her appointment or until a successor has been appointed and
 303 qualified. No member of the commission shall receive compensation for
 304 such member's services.

305 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than October 1, 2023, the
 306 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
 307 choose a contractor to study issues facing the fire service in the state and
 308 develop a strategic master plan to address such issues and prepare the
 309 state for the future. Not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner
 310 shall report the results of such study to the Governor and the joint
 311 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 312 matters relating to public safety and security, in accordance with the
 313 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

314 (b) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars is appropriated to
 315 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection from the
 316 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for purposes of
 317 conducting the study required by subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	29-1b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-323l
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-323n
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-323o
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-313m

Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-323s
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-323v
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	22a-601(a)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	28-29a
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and transfer the powers and duties of the Office of State Fire Administrator to said division, revise the powers and duties of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to contract for a study of the fire service in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]