



General Assembly

Amendment

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LCO No. 4986



Offered by:

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5483

File No. 291

Cal. No. 208

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND TRANSFERRING VARIOUS FUNCTIONS TO A DIVISION OF FIRE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION AND REVISING THE POWERS AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 29-1b of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

5 (a) There shall be within the Department of Emergency Services and
6 Public Protection a Division of State Police. The Commissioner of
7 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall serve as administrative
8 head and commanding officer of the State Police Division. As
9 administrative head, said commanding officer of the Division of State

10 Police shall delegate said commanding officer's jurisdiction of the affairs
11 of the Division of State Police to a deputy commissioner who shall have
12 the powers and privileges conferred by statute upon a state policeman.

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

30 (c) (1) There shall be within said department a Division of Fire
31 Services Administration. The State Fire Administrator shall be the
32 administrative head of said division.

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

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

42 of Emergency Services and Public Protection" shall be substituted in lieu
43 thereof. Any order or regulation of the former Office of State Fire
44 Administration that is in force on the effective date of this section shall
45 continue in force and effect as an order or regulation of the Division of
46 Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency
47 Services and Public Protection until amended, repealed or superseded
48 pursuant to law.

49 Sec. 2. Section 7-323k of the general statutes is repealed and the
50 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

51 (a) (1) There is established a Commission on Fire Prevention and
52 Control. [to] Until June 30, 2025, the commission shall consist of twelve
53 members appointed by the Governor. The State Fire Marshal or his or
54 her designee and the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
55 Universities or his or her designee shall serve as ex-officio, voting
56 members of said commission. Of the twelve members appointed by the
57 Governor, two shall represent The Connecticut State Firefighter's
58 Association, two shall represent the Connecticut Fire Chiefs
59 Association, two shall represent the Uniformed Professional Firefighters
60 of the International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO, two shall
61 represent the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, two shall
62 represent the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association and
63 two shall represent the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. The
64 term of any member appointed pursuant to this subdivision shall end
65 on June 30, 2025.

66 (2) On and after July 1, 2025, the commission shall consist of the
67 following members:

68 (A) Two members of The Connecticut State Firefighter's Association,
69 one of whom is the chairperson of the association's education
70 committee, appointed by the Governor;

71 (B) Two members of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association,
72 appointed by the Governor;

73 (C) Two members of the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs' Association,
74 appointed by the Governor;

75 (D) Two members of the Uniformed Professional Firefighters of the
76 International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO, appointed by the
77 Governor;

78 (E) Two members of the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association,
79 appointed by the Governor;

80 (F) Two members of the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors
81 Association, appointed by the Governor;

82 (G) A representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns,
83 appointed by the Governor;

84 (H) A representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities,
85 appointed by the Governor;

86 (I) A representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns,
87 appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of
88 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
89 safety and security;

90 (J) A representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities,
91 appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of
92 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
93 safety and security;

94 (K) A member of the Connecticut Fire Equipment Mechanics
95 Association, appointed by the House ranking member of the joint
96 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
97 matters relating to public safety and security;

98 (L) A representative of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory
99 Board, appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing
100 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
101 relating to public safety and security;

102 (M) The State Fire Marshal, who shall be a nonvoting member;

103 (N) The forest protection supervisor within the Forestry Division of
104 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, or such
105 supervisor's designee, who shall be a nonvoting member; and

106 (O) The commanding officer of the Fire and Explosion Investigation
107 Unit of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
108 Services and Public Protection, or such officer's designee, who shall be
109 a nonvoting member.

110 (b) On or before July fifteenth, annually, each organization to be
111 represented on said commission shall submit to the [Governor]
112 appropriate appointing authority a list of nominees for appointment to
113 said commission, which list the [Governor] appointing authority may
114 use when making appointments to said commission. [On or before
115 September 1, 1975, the Governor shall appoint eight members of said
116 commission to serve for a term of three years and on or before
117 September 1, 1976, he shall appoint four members for a term of one year.
118 Thereafter he] Appointing authorities shall appoint members to said
119 commission [, to replace those whose terms have expired,] to serve for
120 three years, or until a successor is appointed. Any vacancy in the
121 membership of the commission shall be filled by the appointing
122 authority for the unexpired portion of the term. Persons appointed to
123 said commission shall be qualified, by experience or education, in the
124 fields of fire protection, fire prevention, fire suppression, fire fighting
125 and related fields.

126 (c) The commission shall meet at such times and at such places as it
127 deems proper. [Said] On and before June 30, 2025, the commission shall
128 elect from its membership a [chairman, vice chairman] chairperson, vice
129 chairperson and secretary who shall serve a one year term commencing
130 on October first of the year in which they are elected, provided such
131 terms shall expire on June 30, 2025, and nothing contained herein shall
132 prevent their reelection to such office. On and after July 1, 2025, the
133 Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the commission from the

134 commission's membership, and the commission shall elect from its
135 membership a vice chairperson and secretary, who shall serve one year
136 terms, provided nothing contained herein shall prevent their reelection
137 to such office. No member of said commission shall receive
138 compensation for such member's services.

139 (d) Members of the commission shall not be considered as holding
140 public office solely by virtue of their membership on said commission.

141 (e) On and after July 1, 2025, the members of the education committee
142 of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Inc., shall serve as a
143 subcommittee of the commission on matters relating to fire schools.

144 [(e)] (f) The commission shall be within the Department of Emergency
145 Services and Public Protection.

146 Sec. 3. Section 7-323l of the general statutes is repealed and the
147 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

148 (a) The commission shall:

149 (1) Recommend minimum standards of education and physical
150 condition [required of each candidate] for candidates for any firefighter
151 position;

152 (2) Establish standards for [a] fire service training and education
153 [program, on a voluntary basis] programs, and develop and conduct an
154 examination program to certify those fire service personnel who
155 satisfactorily demonstrate their ability to meet the requirements of the
156 fire service training and education program standards;

157 (3) Establish an optional fire service training and education program
158 in the handling of incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles
159 and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or
160 nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum for such
161 techniques is made available at no cost from (A) institutions of higher
162 education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are
163 concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder,

164 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B)
165 collaborations of such institutions, professionals or organizations;

166 (4) Conduct fire fighting training and education programs designed
167 to assist firefighters in developing and maintaining their skills and
168 keeping abreast of technological advances in fire suppression, fire
169 protection, fire prevention and related fields;

170 (5) Recommend standards for promotion to the various ranks of fire
171 departments;

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

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

180 (8) Advise the Division of Fire Services Administration within the
181 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection on the
182 management of the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan;

183 (9) Implement the recommendations of the study of the fire service
184 authorized pursuant to subdivision (36) of subsection (b) of section 41
185 of public act 23-204; and

186 [(8)] (10) Submit to the Governor, the [Joint Legislative Management
187 Committee of the General Assembly] joint standing committee of the
188 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
189 and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and the
190 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection an annual
191 report (A) relating to the activities, recommendations and
192 accomplishments of the commission, and (B) making recommendations
193 on the funding necessary for the operation of, the maintenance of and

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

195 (b) The commission may recommend, and the Commissioner of
196 Emergency Services and Public Protection may adopt, regulations in
197 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 as necessary to implement
198 the provisions of this section.

199 Sec. 4. Section 7-323n of the general statutes is repealed and the
200 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

201 [There is established an Office of State Fire Administration, which
202 office] The Division of State Fire Services Administration within the
203 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall: [(a)] (1)
204 Carry out the provisions of this part; [(b)] (2) administer the state's
205 responsibilities under federal laws relevant to fire service; [(c)] (3)
206 develop a master plan for fire prevention and control; and [(d)] (4) carry
207 out any other function which the commission may devise. [Subject to
208 the provisions of chapter 67, the commission may appoint such clerical
209 and other assistants as it may deem necessary to carry out the provisions
210 of this section.]

211 Sec. 5. Section 7-323o of the general statutes is repealed and the
212 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

213 (a) There is established the position of State Fire Administrator. [who]
214 Prior to July 1, 2025, the State Fire Administrator shall be recommended
215 by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and be appointed by
216 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. [and
217 who] Upon a vacancy in the position of State Fire Administrator
218 occurring on or after July 1, 2025, the Commission on Fire Prevention
219 and Control may recommend candidates for the position of State Fire
220 Administrator to the commissioner, and the commissioner shall appoint
221 such State Fire Administrator, who shall be qualified for the position by
222 at least five years of experience in the fire service.

223 (b) The Division of Fire Services Administration shall:

- 224 [(1) Carry out the requirements of section 7-323n; (2) administer]
- 225 (1) Administer federal funds and grants allocated to the fire services
226 of the state;
- 227 [(3) provide] (2) Provide technical assistance and guidance to fire
228 fighting forces of any state or municipal agency;
- 229 [(4) develop] (3) Develop a centralized information and audiovisual
230 library regarding fire prevention and control;
- 231 [(5) accumulate] (4) Accumulate, disseminate and analyze fire
232 prevention data;
- 233 [(6) recommend] (5) Recommend specifications of fire service
234 materials and equipment and assist in the purchasing thereof;
- 235 [(7) assist] (6) Assist in mutual aid coordination;
- 236 [(8) coordinate] (7) Coordinate fire programs with those of the other
237 states;
- 238 [(9) assist] (8) Assist in communications coordination;
- 239 [(10) establish] (9) Establish and maintain a fire service information
240 program;
- 241 [and (11) review] (10) Review and approve the purchase of fire
242 apparatus or equipment at state institutions, facilities and properties;
243 [and, on and after July 1, 1985, coordinate the training and education of
244 fire service personnel at such institutions, facilities and properties.]
- 245 (11) Recommend and provide reports on revisions to statutes relating
246 to firefighter training and fire prevention and control;
- 247 (12) Advise and assist the Commission on Fire Prevention and
248 Control regarding legislative proposals;
- 249 (13) Encourage the expansion and improvement of existing regional

250 firefighter training facilities in cooperation with the Commission on Fire
251 Prevention and Control;

252 (14) Administer the state fire school and regional fire schools;

253 (15) Administer certification examinations, testing procedures and
254 reciprocity recognition for credentials in the fire service disciplines;

255 (16) Manage the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan, with
256 the advice of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control; and

257 (17) Make recommendations to the Commission on Fire Prevention
258 and Control and the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
259 Protection pertaining to the operational funding of the state fire school
260 and regional fire schools.

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

265 Sec. 6. Section 7-313m of the general statutes is repealed and the
266 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

267 (a) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the chief
268 of a volunteer fire department for a distressed municipality, as defined
269 in section 32-9p, shall submit to the [State Fire Administrator] Division
270 of Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency
271 Services and Public Protection a report on the yearly average of the
272 number of volunteer firefighters from such municipality's volunteer fire
273 department who enrolled in Firefighter I certification and recruit
274 training based on the preceding four years, except the year commencing
275 January 1, 2020, shall not be included in any such four preceding years
276 for purposes of calculating such average.

277 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and each fiscal year
278 thereafter, the [State Fire Administrator] Division of Fire Services
279 Administration shall award a grant to any distressed municipality with

280 a volunteer fire department for the purposes of covering costs related to
281 the provision of Firefighter I certification and recruit training for
282 volunteer firefighters at regional fire schools. The amount of such grant
283 award for each such distressed municipality shall be equal to the
284 product of (1) the average cost of a Firefighter I certification and recruit
285 training program at a regional fire school, and (2) the average number
286 of volunteer firefighters from such distressed municipality's volunteer
287 fire department who enrolled at a regional fire school for such
288 certification and training.

289 (c) Not later than February 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the [State
290 Fire Administrator] Division of Fire Services Administration shall
291 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
292 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
293 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies a
294 report on the (1) reports submitted by the chiefs of volunteer fire
295 departments of distressed municipalities pursuant to subsection (a) of
296 this section, and (2) average cost of a Firefighter I certification and
297 recruit training program at a regional fire school.

298 Sec. 7. Section 7-323s of the general statutes is repealed and the
299 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

300 (a) The [State Fire Administrator] Division of Fire Services
301 Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and
302 Public Protection, within available appropriations, shall develop model
303 guidelines, on or before January 1, 2007, to be used by municipalities
304 with paid municipal emergency personnel and municipalities with
305 volunteer emergency personnel in entering into agreements authorizing
306 volunteer emergency personnel to serve during personal time.

307 (b) A municipality with paid municipal emergency personnel and a
308 municipality with volunteer emergency personnel may enter into an
309 agreement authorizing paid emergency personnel to serve during
310 personal time as active members of a volunteer fire department in the
311 municipality in which they reside. In developing such agreements, such

312 municipalities shall consider the model guidelines developed by the
313 [State Fire Administrator] Division of Fire Services Administration
314 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
315 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

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

321 Sec. 8. Section 7-323v of the general statutes is repealed and the
322 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

323 (a) The [State Fire Administrator] Division of Fire Services
324 Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and
325 Public Protection shall, within available appropriations, pay five
326 hundred dollars to each volunteer fire company for each call to which it
327 responds on (1) a limited access highway, designated pursuant to
328 section 13b-27, (2) the section of the highway known as the Berlin
329 Turnpike, which begins at the end of the existing Wilbur Cross Parkway
330 in the town of Meriden and extends northerly along Route 15 to the
331 beginning of a section of limited access highway in the town of
332 Wethersfield known as South Meadows Expressway, or (3) the section
333 of Route 8 in the town of Beacon Falls which is within the boundaries of
334 the Naugatuck State Forest.

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

338 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any regional fire school may
339 receive and use federal, state or private funds or contributions for the
340 facilities and operations of such school.

341 Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
342 group to make recommendations regarding the structure and

343 operations of the Office of State Fire Marshal and the Office of Education
344 and Data Management within the Department of Administrative
345 Services in order to effectively administer code development, code
346 enforcement, fire prevention and fire investigation functions.

347 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

348 (1) The chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and ranking members of the
349 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
350 matters relating to public safety and security, or their designees;

351 (2) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
352 or the commissioner's designee;

353 (3) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the
354 commissioner's designee;

355 (4) The head of the Office of Education and Data Management within
356 the Department of Administrative Services; and

357 (5) A representative of the Connecticut State Fire Marshals
358 Association, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the joint
359 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
360 matters relating to public safety and security.

361 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
362 later than July 1, 2024. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
363 authority.

364 (d) The working group shall select a chairperson from among its
365 members. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the
366 working group, which shall be held not later than August 1, 2024.

367 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
368 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
369 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

370 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a

371 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
 372 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 373 relating to public safety and security, in accordance with the provisions
 374 of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall
 375 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025,
 376 whichever is later.

377 Sec. 11. Section 7-323j of the general statutes is repealed and the
 378 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

379 As used in this part, "commission" means the Commission on Fire
 380 Prevention and Control; "municipality" means town, city, consolidated
 381 town and city, consolidated town and borough, borough, school district,
 382 fire district, fire and sewer district, sewer district, lighting district or any
 383 other municipal corporation or taxing district upon which is placed the
 384 duty of, or which has itself assumed the duty of, protecting its
 385 inhabitants from loss by fire; "fire fighting duties" means and includes
 386 duties performed in connection with the suppression and prevention of
 387 fires, fire training and rescue, fire investigation, arson investigation,
 388 details and assignments to protect the public safety against fire and
 389 other related work; "firefighters" means any person who is regularly
 390 employed and paid by any municipality or by a contractor which is a
 391 nonprofit corporation for the purpose of performing fire fighting duties
 392 for a municipality on an average of not less than thirty-five hours per
 393 week or any volunteer who performs fire fighting duties. [and who
 394 elects to cooperate with the commission in accordance with section 7-
 395 323m.]

396 Sec. 12. Section 7-323m of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 397 *July 1, 2025*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	29-1b
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	7-323k
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-323l

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-323n
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-323o
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-313m
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-323s
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-323v
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-323j
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	Repealer section