

HB 5460 -- Redline

APP Joint Favorable to Chaptered -- AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE FIRE PROTECTION.

Deletions ~~struck~~ · Insertions underlined

~~General Assembly~~ Substitute House Bill No.

5460 ~~February~~ Public Session, Act 2026 ~~No. -- AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE FIRE PROTECTION.~~

26-144 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE FIRE PROTECTION.

~~and~~ (4) ~~"Subdivision"~~ District or ~~district~~ subdivision includes any entity or subdivision of a municipality with a responsibility for fire protection services pursuant to statute, charter or ~~ordinance.~~ ordinance;

~~(b) and On~~ (5) ~~or "National before Emergency July Response 1, Information 2027, System" each means~~ the shall national register data each system entity developed responsible for designated providing by fire the protection United services States within Fire all Administration, or for the its geographic successor area system, or for the municipality collection, in reporting the National Emergency Response Information System and enter analysis into of said fire system the demographic and contact emergency information incident related data. to such entities.

~~The municipality shall accurately maintain such demographic and contact information and shall review such demographic and contact~~ LC0 1 of 19 Substitute House Bill No.

5460 ~~information~~ (b) ~~not On lessor than before annually.~~ July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each fire protection entity responsible for providing fire protection services within one or more of the geographic areas of a municipality shall register with such municipality.

~~(c) Such On registration or shall before include, July but 1, need 2027, not each be municipality limited shall to, establish the a demographic local information fire of protection the plan geographic and area submit served such by plans such entity to and then name the and contact State information of such Fire entity. Administrator.~~

Such entity shall file amendments to the registration reporting any material change to the information contained in such registration not later than thirty days after the entity knows or should know of such material change.

(c) Each municipality shall enter such registration and the demographic and contact information related to such entities in the National Emergency Response Information System.

The municipality shall maintain and review such demographic and contact information not less than annually.

(d) On or before July 1, 2027, each municipality shall establish a local fire protection plan and submit such plan to the chief elected officer, legislative body and emergency management director of such municipality.

Each municipality may submit such plan to the State Fire Administrator, unless the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control requires the submission of such plan to the State Fire Administrator pursuant to subsection (b) of section 7-323l, in which case such plans shall be submitted in the form and manner specified by the commission.

(2) A disclosure of the ~~subdivisions~~ districts or ~~districts~~ subdivisions responsible for fire protection services throughout all geographic areas within the municipality;

~~(3) The Public name Act of each No. fire protection entity responsible for the primary response by the municipality to the need for fire protection services;~~

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5460 (3) The name of each fire protection entity responsible for providing fire protection services within one or more of the geographic areas of such municipality;

~~(6) The name of the person, including, but not limited to, the fire chief, responsible for each fire protection services~~ entity that provides fire protection services to the municipality;

~~LC0 (e) 2~~ If, pursuant to the provisions of 19 subsection Substitute (b) Bill of No. section 7-323l of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control establishes a standardized protocol, the State Fire Administrator shall, not less than once every five years, review and assign a rating to each local fire protection plan submitted to the State Fire Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of this section in accordance with such standardized protocol.

5460 ~~(d) The State Fire Administrator shall (1) review may and require assign any a municipality rating whose to each local fire protection Public plan Act in No. accordance with the standardized protocol established by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control pursuant to section 7-323l of the general statutes, as amended by this act.~~

~~The 26-144 State 3 Fire Administrator (1) may require any municipality whose local fire protection plan is assigned an unsatisfactory rating to submit a performance improvement plan not later than ninety days after the assignment of such 19 unsatisfactory~~ Substitute rating, House and Bill (2) No. shall assist the municipality

~~with the development of such performance improvement plan.~~

~~(e) 5460 Each protection municipality plan shall be reviewed and assigned an unsatisfactory rating local to fire submit protection a performance improvement plan at not later than every ninety five days years after and the communicate assignment any of substantial such changes unsatisfactory to rating, and (2) shall assist such plan municipality to with the State development Fire of Administrator, such performance improvement plan.~~

~~(f) On and after July 1, 2032, and every five years thereafter, each municipality shall review, and revise as needed, its local fire protection plan and may communicate any substantial changes to such plan to the State Fire Administrator.~~

Such standards and protocols shall address, but need not be limited to, operational safety strategies used during fire suppression operations, hazardous materials mitigation and technical rescue operations and methods for ensuring the health and wellness of fire service personnel;

~~LC0[(3)] 3(4) of Establish 19 an Substitute optional Bill fire service training and education program that provides information relative to the blue envelopes Public Act No.~~

~~5460 26-144 [(3)] 4 (4) Establish an optional fire service training and education program that provides information relative to the blue envelopes designed pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed pursuant to section 14-11l and techniques for the handling of incidents, 19 such Substitute as House wandering, Bill that No. involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum for such techniques is made available at no cost from (A) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B) collaboration of such institutions, professionals or organizations;~~
5460 designed pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed pursuant to section 14-11l and techniques for the handling of incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum for such techniques is made available at no cost from (A) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B) collaboration of such institutions, professionals or organizations;

~~[(9)] (10) Implement the recommendations of the study of the fire service authorized pursuant to subdivision (36) of subsection (b) of LC0 Public 4 Act of 10 Substitute Bill No.~~

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~~[and] and (11) [(10)] (11) Submit Establish, to the Governor, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security, in coordination accordance with the State provisions Fire of Administrator, section a 11-4a, standardized and classification the system Commissioner that of evaluates Emergency Services and grades Public Protection an annual report (A) relating to the operational performance activities, of the fire recommendations protection services provided by and each accomplishments municipality of or the fire commission, district and with (B) primary making responsibility recommendations on the funding necessary for such the operation of, the maintenance of and capital improvements to the state fire protection school services, and regional fire schools.~~

~~In (b) establishing The such system, the commission shall may: consider nationally recognized standards, including, but not limited to, standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the Center for Public Safety Excellence;~~

~~(12) (1) Not [recommend] later Recommend, than and January 1, 2028, develop a standardized protocol for the submission Commissioner of operational Emergency data Services by and each Public fire Protection protection may entity adopt, regulations in accordance with the state, provisions and of submit chapter such 54 protocol as necessary to implement the State provisions Fire of Administrator this for section; adoption;~~

~~(13) (2) Not Require less municipalities than to once submit every five years, establish, in coordination with the State Fire Administrator, a standardized protocol by which the State Fire Administrator shall review local fire protection plans plans, established and submitted any pursuant revisions to sections such 1 plans, of this act and assign a rating to each the such State local Fire fire Administrator; protection plan;~~

~~and (3) [(10)] (14) Submit Establish, to in the Governor, the joint coordination standing with committee the of the State General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety Fire and Administrator, security, a in (A) accordance standardized with protocol by which the provisions State of Fire section Administrator 11-4a, shall and review, the not Commissioner less of than Emergency once Services every and five Public years, Protection local an fire annual protection report plans (A) and relating assign a rating to the such activities, recommendations plan and based accomplishments on of such the standardized commission, protocol, and (B) making standardized recommendations classification on system the by funding which necessary for the operation State of, Fire the Administrator maintenance may of evaluate and capital grade improvements to the state operational fire performance school of and the fire protection services provided by each municipality or fire district. regional fire schools.~~

~~(b) In the establishing commissions such may standardized recommend, classification and system, the Commissioner commission of shall Emergency consider Services nationally and recognized Public standards, Protection including, may but adopt, not regulations limited into, accordance standards with developed by the provisions National of Fire chapter Protection 54 Association as and necessary to implement the provisions Center of for this Public section- Safety Excellence;~~

~~and (4) Require the submission of operational data by each fire protection entity in the state and specify the form and manner of such submission.~~

~~Public Act No.~~

~~26-144 6 of 19 Substitute House Bill No.~~

~~5460 The commissioner shall submit such requirement to the State Fire Administrator for adoption.~~

~~(NEW) (Effective October 1, 2026) Notwithstanding (a) any As LCO used 5 in of this 10 section, Substitute "municipality" Bill has No- the same meaning as provided in section 7-148 of the general statutes.~~

~~5460 (b) provision In of the general event statutes fire or protection the services provisions in of a any municipality special are act, discontinued municipal charter or home interrupted, rule including, ordinance, but each municipality, as defined not in limited section to, 7-148 of the general dissolution or statutes, cessation of operation of any shall fire exercise department, fire its district power or granted pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of section 7-148 of the general statutes to provide for fire protection, company, organize, maintain and regulate the persons municipality providing shall fire take protection, such provide actions the as necessary apparatus to for ensure extinguishing the fires continuation and do uninterrupted all provision other of things fire necessary or desirable for the protection of services the within municipality its from territorial fire, limits, including, except but as not otherwise limited provided to, by providing special the act facilities or necessary municipal for charter. the municipality's fire protection services.~~

~~Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, the establishment or operation of a municipal fire department, the entering into of contracts or agreements for fire protection services, the designation of a temporary or permanent provider or participation in a mutual aid or regional fire service arrangement.~~

~~Section (NEW) 7-3230 (Effective off from the passage) general (a) statutes As is used repealed in and this the section following and is sections substituted 5 in and lieu 6 thereof of (Effective this October act: 1, 2026):~~

~~(a) (1) There "Fire is protection" established has the position same of meaning State as Fire provided Administrator. in section 1 of this act;~~

~~Prior to July 1, 2025, the State Fire Administrator shall be recommended by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and be appointed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Upon a vacancy in the position of State Fire Administrator occurring on or after July 1, 2025, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control may recommend candidates for the position of State Fire Administrator to the commissioner, and the commissioner shall appoint such State Fire Administrator, who shall be qualified for the position by at least five years of experience in the fire service.~~

~~(2) There is established the position of Deputy State Fire Administrator.~~

~~The Deputy State Fire Administrator shall report to the State Fire Administrator.~~

~~The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control may recommend candidates for the position of Deputy State Fire Administrator to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and the commissioner shall appoint such Deputy State Fire Administrator, who shall be qualified for the position by at least five years of experience in the fire service.~~

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

~~(1) Administer federal funds and grants allocated to the fire services LCO 6 of 19 Substitute Bill No. 5460 of the state;~~

~~(2) Provide technical assistance and guidance to fire fighting forces of any state or municipal agency;~~

~~(3) Develop a centralized information and audiovisual library regarding fire prevention and control;~~

~~(4) Accumulate, disseminate and analyze fire prevention data;~~

~~(5) Recommend specification of fire service materials and equipment and assist in the purchasing thereof;~~

~~(6) Assist in mutual aid coordination;~~

~~(7) Coordinate fire programs with those of the other states;~~

~~(8) Assist in communications coordination;~~

~~(9) Establish and maintain a fire service information program;~~

~~(10) Review and approve the purchase of fire apparatus or equipment at state institutions, facilities and properties;~~

~~(11) Recommend and provide reports on revisions to statutes relating to firefighter training and fire prevention and control;~~

~~(12) Advise and assist the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control regarding legislative proposals;~~
~~(13) Encourage the expansion and improvement of existing regional firefighter training facilities in cooperation with the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control;~~
~~(14) Administer the state fire school and regional fire schools;~~
~~(15) Administer certification examinations, testing procedures and reciprocity recognition for credentials in the fire service disciplines;~~
~~(16) Manage the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan, with LCO 7 of 19 Substitute Bill No. 5460 the advice of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control;~~
~~and (17) Make recommendations to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection pertaining to the operational funding of the state fire school and regional fire schools.~~
~~(c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to forest fire prevention and control programs administered by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant to sections 23-33 to 23-57, inclusive.~~

~~Sec.~~

~~5.~~

~~(NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) As used in this section and sections 6 and 7 of this act:~~
~~(1) "Fire protection" means the prevention and suppression of fires, the investigation of the origin and cause of fires, the response to hazardous materials incidents and technical rescues;~~
~~(b) There is established within the Division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Protection a program to be known as "Connecticut Fire".~~
~~The purpose of the Connecticut Fire program shall be to establish a framework for the state to provide administrative and operational assistance to municipalities or fire authorities that choose to receive such assistance.~~

26-144 7 of 19 Substitute House Bill No. 5460 assistance.

~~(c) The~~ (c) Deputy ~~The~~ State Fire Administrator ~~shall oversee the Connecticut~~ shall oversee the Connecticut Fire program.

~~Not later than July 1, 2028, for the Deputy Connecticut State Fire Administrator program shall, by within the available Commission appropriations, on implement Fire the Prevention recommendations and Control pursuant to section 6 of this act, the working State group Fire established Administrator pursuant may to include section in LCOs 8 budget of request 10 for Substitute the Bill subsequent No. fiscal year the cost of implementing such framework.~~

5460 Upon the inclusion of this appropriations act, for said program in an approved state budget, the State Fire Administrator shall, within available appropriations, implement such framework.

~~6-5.~~

~~(NEW) (Effective from passage) The~~ (a) Upon implementation of the Connecticut Fire program by the State Fire Administrator pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this act, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall administer a Connecticut Fire grant program.

Pursuant to said grant program, the secretary shall provide ~~grants-in-aid~~ grants-in-aid to municipalities that participate in the Connecticut Fire program ~~established under section 5 of this act,~~ to incentivize ~~the regionalization of fire protection services and the sharing of fire protection resources among municipalities.~~

(b) Not later than July 1, 2028, of and the annually subsequent thereafter, fiscal year after awarding the first grant under the Connecticut Fire grant program, the secretary shall submit a report on the grant program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters public relating Act to No. public safety and security in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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5460 matters relating to public safety and security in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

~~7-6.~~

~~(Effective from passage) (a) There~~ The is ~~Comptroller established~~ shall establish a working group to develop the administrative, operational, fiscal and personnel framework for the Connecticut Fire ~~program.~~ program, established pursuant to section 4 of this act.

~~(b) The working group shall consist include, of but the need following not members; be limited to:~~

~~(1) The chairpersons Comptroller, of for the joint Comptroller's standing designee; committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security, or their designees;~~

~~(2) The State Secretary Comptroller, of the Office of Policy and Management, or the comptroller's secretary's designee;~~

~~LC0(3) 9The Commissioner of 10Emergency SubstituteServices Billand No. Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee;~~

~~5460(4) (3)-The SecretaryState ofFire theAdministrator, Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary'sadministrator's designee;~~

~~(4)(5) The Commissionerchairperson and vice-chairperson of Emergencythe ServicesCommission andon PublicFire Protection, Prevention orand theControl, commissioner'sor designee;their designees;~~

~~(5)(6) TheThree Statemembers of the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Administrator,Service orOrganizations, who shall be appointed by the administrator'sjoint designee;council;~~

~~(6)(7) The chairpersonexecutive anddirector vice-chairperson of the CommissionConnecticut onConference Fireof PreventionMunicipalities andif Control,such executive director agrees to participate in the working group, or the chairpersons'executive designees;director's designee;~~

~~(7)and Three(8) membersThe executive director of the Joint-Council of ConnecticutSmall FireTowns Serviceif Organizations,such whoexecutive shalldirector beagrees appointedto byparticipate in the jointworking council;group, or the Public Act No.~~

~~(8)26-144 A9 representative from the Office of Fiscal19 Analysis,Substitute whoHouse shallBill beNo. appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the GeneralAssemblyhavingcognizanceofmattersrelatingtopublicsafety and security;~~

~~(9)5460 The executive director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, or the director's designee;designee.~~

~~and(c) (10)-The executiveComptroller directorshall: of the Council of Small Towns, or the director's designee.~~

~~(c) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security shall-~~

~~(d)(d)Not Thelater workingthanSeptember group1,2027,theComptroller shallshallsubmit bethe arecommended independentframework bodyfor withinthe Connecticut Fire program developed by the Legislativeworking Departmentgroup forto administrativethe purposesCommission only-on Fire Prevention and Control.~~

~~The administrativeComptroller staffmay afterterminate the jointworking standinggroup committeeon of the Generaldate Assemblythat havingthe cognizancecommission ofapproves matterssuch relatingframework pursuant to publicsubsection safety(e) andof securitythis shallsection serveor asJanuary administrative1, staff2028, ofwhichever theis council-later.~~

~~LC0(e) 10Not oflater 10than SubstituteJanuary Bill1, No.-2028, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control shall (1) review the working group's recommended framework for the Connecticut Fire program, (2) approve such framework, with or without modifications, and (3) submit the approved framework to the State Fire Administrator.~~

~~5460 (e) Not later than September 1, 2027, the working group shall submit areportonitsfindingsandrecommendationstotheCommissiononFire Prevention and Control.~~

~~Not later than January 1, 2028, the commission shall (1) review the report and recommendations, (2) approve the report and recommendations, with or without modifications, and (3) submit the approved report and recommendations to the Deputy State Fire Administrator.~~

~~The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits suchapprovedreport andrecommendationsor January 1, 2028, whichever is later.~~

~~7.~~

~~(NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The State Fire Administrator shall coordinate with the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to establish fire service regions within the state that matchtheemergencypreparednessregionsestablishedbysaiddivision.~~

~~The State Fire Administrator shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, a regional fire coordinator for each such region.~~

~~In any region where a recognized regional fire chiefs' organization exists, such organization may submit to the State Fire Administrator recommendations for candidates for regional fire coordinator for such region.~~

~~(b) Each regional fire coordinator shall serve in a voluntary, nonsalaried capacity as a liaison between the Division of Fire Services Public Act No.~~

~~26-144 10 of 19 Substitute House Bill No.~~

~~5460 Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the local fire departments within the region served by such regional fire coordinator for the purposes of facilitating the Connecticut Fire program established pursuant to section 4 of this act and coordinating fire protection resources through such region.~~

~~For the purposes of this subsection, "fire protection" has the same meaning as provided in section 1 of this act.~~

~~(c) The State Fire Administrator may submit a plan to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public~~

Protection to transition the position of regional fire coordinator to a salaried employee position.
Upon approval of such plan, the commissioner may include such position in the estimates of expenditure requirements in accordance with the provisions of section 4-77 of the general statutes.

Sec.

(NEW) (Effective ~~from July passage~~) ~~1, (a) 2026~~ ~~There is~~ ~~Department established~~ ~~of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in coordination with the position~~ ~~office of a the regional~~ ~~Comptroller, fire~~ ~~shall, coordinator~~ ~~within the availability of appropriations approved for each such region~~ ~~purpose, within~~ ~~establish and maintain a system for collecting computer-aided dispatch data pursuant to the state~~ ~~provisions of subsection (f) of section 28-25b of the general statutes, as amended by this act.~~

~~Each regional fire~~ ~~The coordinator~~ ~~department shall serve~~ ~~shall as the primary~~ ~~aggregate liaison~~ ~~between such the data~~ ~~Division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public~~ ~~monitor Protection information and regarding the emergency local services fire~~ ~~requests departments~~ ~~managed within the region served by the regional fire coordinator,~~ ~~departments for the purposes of facilitating the Connecticut Fire program established pursuant to section 5 of this act and coordinating emergency fire~~ ~~medical protection services resources~~ ~~providers, throughout such region.~~
~~For purposes of this section, "fire protection" has the same meaning as provided in section 1 of this act.~~

~~(b) The State Fire Administrator shall coordinate with the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to establish regions to be served by the regional fire coordinators that match the regions established by said division.~~

~~The State Fire Administrator shall appoint a regional fire coordinator for each region in the state, and each such appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. In any region where a recognized regional fire chiefs' organization exists, such organization may recommend candidates for the regional fire coordinator position for such region to the State Fire Administrator.~~

~~(NEW) Subsection (f) from passage) The Department of Emergency~~ ~~section Services 28-25b and Public Protection, in coordination with the Office of the State~~ ~~general Comptroller, statutes shall~~ ~~is establish~~ ~~repealed and maintain the a following system~~ ~~is for~~ ~~substituted collecting in~~ ~~LColieu 11~~ ~~thereof of (Effective 10 July Substitute 1, Bill 2026):~~ ~~No.~~

~~5460 (f) computer-aided~~ ~~[On dispatch and data after from January municipalities 1, throughout 2001, each]~~ ~~Each public safety answering point and regional emergency telecommunications center shall submit to the~~ ~~stated~~ ~~division, on a quarterly basis, a report of all 9-1-1 calls for services received through the purpose~~ ~~enhanced of 9-1-1 aggregating service and monitoring the information next regarding generation emergency 9- services 1-1 requests~~ ~~telecommunication managed system by fire~~ ~~the departments public and safety emergency~~ ~~answering medical point services or providers.~~ ~~Public Act No.~~

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~~5460 regional emergency telecommunications center.~~

~~Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: (1) The number of 9-1-1 calls during the reporting quarter;~~

~~[and] (2) for each such call, the elapsed time period from the time the call was received to the time the call was answered, and the elapsed time period from the time the call was answered to the time the call was transferred or terminated, expressed in time ranges or fractile response times;~~

~~and (3) any other information requested by the division for inclusion in the system established and maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to the provisions of section 8 of this act.~~

~~The information required under this subsection shall be produced using data generated from a computer-aided dispatch system if a public safety answering point or regional emergency telecommunications center utilizes such system, and may be submitted in any written or electronic form selected by such public safety answering point or regional emergency telecommunications center and approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, provided the commissioner shall take into consideration the needs of such public safety answering point or regional emergency telecommunications center in approving such written or electronic form.~~

~~On a quarterly basis, the division shall make such information available to the public and [shall post such information on its Internet web site] input such information in the system established pursuant to section 8 of this act.~~

(NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) ~~Not~~ ~~The later~~ ~~office than of July the 1,~~ ~~Comptroller, 2027, in the Office~~ ~~coordination of the State with Comptroller, in coordination with the Department~~ ~~the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall establish~~ ~~study and the maintain~~ ~~feasibility a of First centralizing Responder within Health~~ ~~one and state Benefits agency Unit~~ ~~access of to all public benefits available to firefighters, including, but not limited to, claims related to the Division~~ ~~firefighters cancer relief account established pursuant to section 7-313h of Healthcare~~ ~~the Policy general and statutes, Benefit~~ ~~claims Services related within to the Office~~ ~~Fallen Hero Fund established pursuant to section 3-122a~~

of the State general Comptroller, statutes, injury claims, workers' compensation claims and disability claims.

~~The~~Such unit~~access shall~~Public coordinate~~Act and~~No. disseminate information regarding all public benefits available to firefighters, including, but not limited to, claims related to the firefighters cancer relief account established pursuant to section 7-313h of the general statutes, as amended by this act, claims related to the fallen hero fund established pursuant to section 3-122a of the general statutes, injury claims, workers' compensation claims and disability claims.

(b) ~~26-144 (1) 12~~ The of unit ~~19~~ shall ~~Substitute~~ consult ~~House~~ with ~~Bill~~ the ~~No.~~ Connecticut State Firefighters Association regarding all matters related to the purposes of the unit.

(2) ~~5460~~ The to unit ~~benefits shall~~through maintain ~~one~~ communications ~~state~~ with ~~agency~~ all ~~shall~~ regional ~~include~~, fire ~~but~~ coordinators ~~need~~ appointed ~~not~~ pursuant ~~be~~ to ~~limited~~ section ~~to~~, ~~8~~ such of ~~state~~ this ~~agency~~ act ~~making~~ to ~~eligibility~~ promote ~~determinations~~, ~~there~~ceiving ~~efficient~~ applications ~~processing~~ of firefighter benefits and claims ~~disseminating~~ and ~~information~~ effective ~~for~~ communication regarding such benefits ~~benefits~~ and ~~claims~~.

(b) Not later than July 1 2027, the Comptroller shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security a report on the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Subsection (a) ~~(b)~~ of section ~~7-313h~~ 7-323o of the ~~2026 supplement to the~~ general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective ~~October from 1, passage~~): ~~2026~~):

(a) ~~(b)~~ There ~~The~~ is ~~Division~~ established of an ~~Fire~~ account ~~Services to Administration~~ be ~~shall~~: known as the "firefighters cancer relief account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account.

The (1) account ~~Administer~~ shall ~~federal~~ contain ~~funds~~ any and ~~moneys~~ grants ~~required~~ allocated by law to be the deposited ~~fire~~ in ~~services~~ of the account, ~~state~~;

Moneys (2) in ~~Provide~~ the ~~technical~~ account ~~assistance~~ shall and be ~~guidance~~ expended by (1) the cancer relief subcommittee of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, established pursuant to section ~~fire~~ 7-313i, ~~fighting~~ as ~~forces~~ amended by this act, for the purposes of providing any ~~wage~~ state replacement or benefits ~~municipal~~ to ~~agency~~; LCO 12 of 10 Substitute Bill No.

5460 (3) ~~firefighters~~ Develop who are diagnosed with a condition ~~centralized~~ of ~~information~~ cancer described in section 7-313j, and (2) ~~audiovisual~~ by ~~library~~ there ~~regarding~~ State ~~fire~~ [Treasurer] ~~prevention~~ Comptroller for purposes of providing reimbursement to municipal employers and state ~~control~~; employers that provide compensation and benefits to firefighters diagnosed with a condition of cancer in accordance with section 7-313p.

(4) Accumulate, disseminate and analyze fire prevention data;

(5) ~~Recommends~~ specifications of fire service materials and equipment and assist in the purchasing thereof;

(6) Assist in mutual aid coordination;

(7) Coordinate fire programs with those of the other states;

(8) Assist in communications coordination;

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5460 (9) Establish and maintain a fire service information program;

(10) Review and approve the purchase of fire apparatus or equipment at state institutions, facilities and properties;

(11) Recommend and provide reports on revisions to statutes relating to firefighter training and fire prevention and control;

(12) Advise and assist the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control regarding legislative proposals;

(13) Encourage the expansion and improvement of existing regional firefighter training facilities in cooperation with the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control;

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

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

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

[and] (17) Make recommendations to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection pertaining to the operational funding of the state fire school and regional fire schools;

and (18) Not later than July 1, 2027, establish, and annually thereafter update as needed, a registry identifying the fire chief for each municipality and fire district in the state.

Subsection (NEW) (h) (Effective of from section passage) 7-313i Not later than July 1, 2027, the office of the general Comptroller, statutes in is coordination repealed with and the following the is substituted Department

~~in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2026):~~ Services and Public Protection, shall establish and maintain a registry of all career and volunteer firefighters in the state, for the Public Act No.

~~(h) 26-144 The 14 State of [Treasurer] 19 Comptroller Substitute shall House remit Bill wage No. replacement benefits that are approved by the subcommittee from the firefighters cancer relief account established pursuant to section 7-313h, as amended by this act, not later than thirty days after such benefits have been approved.~~

5460 purpose of verifying such firefighters' training, credentials and benefit eligibility.

~~Section 7-313k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2026):~~

~~Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the State [Treasurer] Comptroller, in consultation with the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety on the status of the firefighters cancer relief account established pursuant to section 7-313h, as amended by this act, and the firefighters cancer relief program established pursuant to section 7-313j.~~

~~Such report shall include (1) the balance of the account, (2) the projected and actual participation in the program, and (3) the demographic information of each firefighter who receives benefits pursuant to such program, including gender, age, town of residence and income level.~~

~~Sec.~~

~~14.~~

~~Section 3-123 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2026):~~

~~(a) Whenever a person, under the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, is entitled to LCO 13 of 19 Substitute Bill No.~~

~~5460 relief from said association, as a firefighter injured in the line of duty, or rendered sick by disease contracted while in the line of duty, or as the widow or child of a firefighter killed in the line of duty, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, upon the delivery to said commissioner of proper proofs from said association of the right of such person to relief as aforesaid, process payment for such person or persons entitled to such relief, or their legal representative, for the amount to which such person or persons are entitled as relief as aforesaid, provided such orders shall be limited to available appropriations.~~

~~(b) Whenever a firefighter, under the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, is entitled to wage replacement benefits from said association pursuant to the firefighters cancer relief program established pursuant to section 7-313j, the State [Treasurer] Comptroller shall, upon the delivery to the State [Treasurer] Comptroller of proper proof from said association of the right of such firefighter to wage replacement benefits as aforesaid, process payment for such firefighter entitled to such wage replacement benefits, or his or her legal representative, for the amount to which such firefighter is entitled as wage replacement benefits as aforesaid, provided such orders shall be limited to available funds contained in the firefighters cancer relief account established pursuant to section 7-313h, as amended by this act.~~

~~Sec.~~

~~15.~~

~~(NEW) (Effective from passage) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall establish and maintain a registry identifying the fire chief for each municipality and fire district in the state.~~

~~Sec.~~

~~16.~~

~~(NEW) (Effective from passage) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Office of the State Comptroller, in coordination with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall establish and maintain a registry of all career and volunteer firefighters in the state, for the purpose of verifying such firefighters' training, credentials and program LCO 14 of 19 Substitute Bill No.~~

~~5460 eligibility.~~

~~Sec.~~

~~17.~~

~~(c) A [flashing] blue light or lights, including flashing blue lights, may be used on a motor vehicle operated by an active member of a volunteer fire department or company or an active member of an organized civil preparedness auxiliary fire company who has been issued a permit by the chief executive officer of such department or company to use such a [flashing] blue light or lights while on the way to or at the scene of a fire or Public other Act emergency No. requiring such member's services.~~

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5460 or other emergency requiring such member's services.

The ~~LCO~~ chief executive officer of ~~each~~ Substitute ~~fire~~ Bill ~~No.~~ department or company or organized civil preparedness auxiliary fire company shall keep on file, on forms provided by the commissioner, the names and addresses of members who have been authorized to use a [flashing] blue light or lights as provided in this subsection. Such listing shall also designate the registration number of the motor vehicle on which an authorized [a flashing] blue light or lights are to be used.

~~5460 chief executive officer of each volunteer fire department or company or organized civil preparedness auxiliary fire company shall keep on file, on forms provided by the commissioner, the names and addresses of members who have been authorized to use a [flashing] blue light or lights as provided in this subsection. Such listing shall also designate the registration number of the motor vehicle on which an authorized [a flashing] blue light or lights are to be used.~~

(e) The commissioner may issue a permit for a [flashing] red light or lights, including flashing red lights, which may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment (1) used by paid fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants, up to a total of five individuals per department, (2) used by volunteer fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants, up to a total of five individuals per department, (3) used by members of the fire police on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal during traffic directing operations at Public the scene of a fire Act or emergency, (4) used by chief executive officers of emergency medical service organizations, as defined in section 19a-175, the first or second deputies, or if there are no deputies, the first or second assistants, of such an organization that is a municipal or volunteer or licensed organization, (5) used by local fire marshals, (6) used by directors of emergency management, or (7) used by a constable, ~~LCO 16 of 19 Substitute Bill No.~~

~~5460 26-144 appointed 16 pursuant of to 19 an Substitute ordinance House authorized Bill by No. section 9-185 or elected pursuant to section 9-200, on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal during traffic directing operations.~~

5460 operations at the scene of a fire or emergency, (4) used by chief executive officers of emergency medical service organizations, as defined in section 19a-175, the first or second deputies, or if there are no deputies, the first or second assistants, of such an organization that is a municipal or volunteer or licensed organization, (5) used by local fire marshals, (6) used by directors of emergency management, including, but not limited to, the deputy commissioner of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the regional coordinators for said division, or (7) used by a constable, appointed pursuant to an ordinance authorized by section 9-185 or elected pursuant to section 9-200, on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal during traffic directing operations.

(g) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may issue a permit for a ~~white~~ Public light Act or ~~No.~~ lights, including a flashing white light or lights, which may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment as specified in subdivision (1), (2), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (e) of this section.

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5460 white light or lights, including a flashing white light or lights, which may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment as specified in subdivision (1), (2), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (e) of this section.

Such authorization may be revoked for use of such head ~~LCO~~ lamps ~~17 in violation of 19 this~~ Substitute ~~subdivision.~~ Bill No.

~~5460 lamps in violation of this subdivision.~~

~~[(k) Public No Act person, No. other than a police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles operating a state or local police vehicle, shall operate a motor vehicle displaying a steady blue or steady red illuminated light or both steady blue and steady red illuminated lights that are visible externally from the front of the vehicle.] [(l)] (k) Use of colored and flashing lights except as authorized by this section shall be an infraction.~~

~~This 26-144 act 18 shall of take 19 effect Substitute as House follows Bill and No. shall amend the following sections:~~

~~Section 5460 1 [(k) October No 1, person, 2026 other New than a police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles operating a state or local police vehicle, shall operate a motor vehicle displaying a steady blue or steady red illuminated light or both steady blue and steady red illuminated lights that are visible externally from the front of the vehicle.] [(l)] (k) Use of colored and flashing lights except as authorized by this section Sec. shall be an infraction.~~

~~2 Governor's October Action: 1, 2026 7-3231 Sec.~~

~~3 Approved October June 1, 4, 2026 New Public section Act LCO 18 of 19 Substitute Bill No.~~

~~5460 26-144 Sec. 19 of 19~~

~~4 October 1, 2026 7-3230 Sec.~~

~~5 from passage New section Sec.~~

~~6 from passage New section Sec.~~

~~7 from passage New section from passage Sec.~~

~~8 New section Sec.~~
~~9 from passage New section Sec.~~
~~10 from passage New section Sec.~~
~~11 October 1, 2026 7-313h(a) Sec.~~
~~12 October 1, 2026 7-313i(h) Sec.~~
~~13 October 1, 2026 7-313k Sec.~~
~~14 October 1, 2026 3-123 from passage Sec.~~
~~15 New section Sec.~~
~~16 from passage New section Sec.~~
~~17 October 1, 2026 14-96q PS Joint Favorable Subst.~~
~~-LC0 APP Joint Favorable LC0 19 of 19~~

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