

Public Safety and Security Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7201

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A SUPPLEMENTAL PARAMEDIC.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB-7201 requires the Commissioner of Public Health to give the UConn emergency medical service organization a certificate of authorization for a supplemental paramedic. This certification would give medics from UConn the capability to reduce the number of fatalities. Oftentimes, UConn medics arrive on site looking to treat high-risk patients but cannot do so and must wait on hospital staff. However, if given the authorization from DPH the medics can handle more complex cases and reduce the number of losses that takes place when patients have to wait.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Department of Public Health, Commissioner, Manisha Juthani, MD](#)

Opposes this bill because this legislation is deemed to be duplicative and overall useless seeing as UCONN, just as of March 10th, 2025, has submitted a request to become a full Primary Service Area Responder (Which this bill deems as superseding that of this new "Supplementary Paramedic" term), and is under review. If this request is approved and UCONN Paramedics become PSARs, then this bill is doubly redundant, as the very problem the bill seeks to solve will be moot and thus, unnecessary.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[CT Police and Fire Union, Executive Vice President, Christopher Albani](#)

Mr. Albani supports this bill because permitting UCONN Fire Department to become full PSARs would allow them to utilize Advanced Life-Saving techniques (ALS) which, as of now is prohibited as they are not considered PSARs and would thus greatly improve care and survival rates when UCONN responders attend to emergencies in their community.

[University of Connecticut, Chief of Staff to the President, Michelle Williams & Interim Fire Chief, Christopher Renshaw](#)

They support this bill as it will allow their personnel to utilize ALS methods to provide care for those needing it on campus and in their wider community.

[Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut, President, Peter Brown:](#)

Mr. Brown Supports this bill stating that the Windham paramedics provides a great service to the communities near the hospital but the required response time to the Storrs campus is usually well outside national recommended response times. This puts individuals lives at risk which is why he states that giving the UConn firefighters the transport designation for the Storrs campus ensures the safety of the community.

[Joe Speich:](#)

Mr. Speich supports because it would increase the availability of paramedics in the region and reduce the response time for an ALS response to UConn.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers, President, Gregory Allard:](#)

Mr. Allard opposes this bill and states that there is already an established application and hearing process for new or expanded services assignments. Expresses that the introduction of this bill disrupts the process, bypassing the structured review that ensures fair and evidence-based decisions.

[Aetna Ambulance & Ambulance Service of Manchester, President, Kim Aroh:](#)

Mrs. Aroh opposes the bill and states that it is bypassing the Department of Public Health Commissioners authority and instead places the authority solely in the hands of the Chief Elected Official for that specific municipality. Believes that it this bill passes it would lead to great disruptions and large failures in the overall emergency medical services system for the state.

[AFT Local 5099, President, Chris Colonair:](#)

Mr. Colonair opposes this bill because it would not expand access, substantially, to ambulance support in the area surrounding UCONN. He believes that the reports of faster response times saving lives is conflated with the amount of missed or declined responses by paramedics.

[Betsy Petrie McComber:](#)

Mrs. McComber opposes this bill as there already exists formats for these groups to gain Primary Area Responder certifications.

Reported by: Tom Atwood

Date: 3/27/25