

# Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1240

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODES AND

**Title:** STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/11/2025

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Safety and Security Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Bill S.B. 1240 is meant to address membership qualifications and vacancies of on the Codes and Standards Committee. Many firefighter organizations have expressed dissatisfaction with the makeup of the committee stating that it lacks personnel with adequate fire and life safety knowledge.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

[Commissioner Michelle Gilman – Department of Administrative Services](#)

Commissioner Gilman acknowledges the commitment the committee has to building and fire safety. However, she is concerned about the change in the number of members and the effect on the balance of the committee.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Pete Buonome, Vice-President – Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association](#)

Mr. Bounome support this bill and recalls that life safety practices came about after the tragedy of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire where 146 men and women died. He argues that as the Code and Standards Committee is configured it lends itself more towards building safety practices rather than the life safety practices that fire safety professional are trained in. Adding two members to the committee who have more life safety and fire experience would greatly increase the visibility of fire service professionals.

[Robert Buch, Fire Marshal – Town of Darien](#)

Mr. Buch supports the bill and testified that S.B.1240 is not perfect as written but it is necessary to start a conversation about the balance between fire safety officials and building safety officials. He feels that the current membership is more weighted toward building safety officials rather than fire safety officials who are trained more thoroughly in life safety practices in case of an emergency.

**Walter Summers, Connecticut Fire Marshals Association**

Mr. Summers supports this bill. He states that this bill will maintain the balance between members. Walter Summers also suggests that one more position is added to the new configuration of the council making

**Dennis Eannotti, Fire Marshal Town of Fairfield**

Mr. Eannotti, supports this bill. He states that as the Codes and Standards Committee is configured, it does not adequately represent firefighters and other EMS personnel.

All of the following testifiers support the bill.

Terry Dunn, Fire Marshal for the Town of Westport;

Rocco Grosso, Fire Marshal for the Town of Wilton;

Megan Murphy, Fire Marshal Town of Trumbull;

Brian Lampart, Fire Marshal Town of Trumbull.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Gina Calabro, Executive Director – Connecticut Chapter American Institute of Architects**

Gina Calabro opposes S.B. 1240 because by reducing the size of the committee from 23 to 20 members it eliminates the position for 1 of 2 architects, 1 engineer, a public health official, and 2 public members. Gina Calabro argues that Life safety and Fire Safety are both apart of architectural practices and balance is achieved through comprehensive application of all elements of code compliance and enforcement.

**Joseph Cassidy Consulting Engineer**

Joseph Cassidy Argues that S.B. 1240 proposes adding 1 fire sprinkler contractor and one fire alarm contractor but that is unnecessary as expertise in these systems exists on the committee as it is currently configured. Joseph argues that Fire sprinkler system expertise is provided by the fire protection engineer and a mechanical engineer with fire protection experience. The fire alarm expertise is provided by the electrical engineer member. Cassidy also argues that fire sprinkler and fire alarm codes are regulated through reference standards that are not amended by the codes and Standards committee, negating the need for specific representation on the codes and standards committee.

**Jim Perras, CEO of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Connecticut**

Jim Perras opposes the bill and is concerned that by changing the makeup of the Codes and Standards Committee. The legislature would inadvertently allow the influence of special interest from different industries creating the opportunity for financial gain on the part of those industries.

**Reported by: Geva Tinker**

**Date: 3/27/25**