



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Proposed Bill No. 6624

LCO No. 2509



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

REP. BUCKBEE, 67th Dist.

REP. PISCOPO, 76th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

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

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Increase funding to
- 2 capital reserve funds established for the purpose of funding fire training
- 3 schools; (2) require the Department of Emergency Services and Public
- 4 Protection to develop an advertising campaign designed to (A) attract
- 5 people to apply for both paid and volunteer firefighter positions, and
- 6 (B) increase the number of applications submitted by females for such
- 7 positions; (3) establish a Fire Service Youth Program Advisory Board to,
- 8 among other things, develop a high school curriculum on the
- 9 importance of public safety and community service, create a plan for
- 10 public safety tracks at technical high schools, implement such tracks in
- 11 one technical high school and make such plan available to other schools;
- 12 (4) require the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
- 13 Protection to appoint a firefighter recruitment and training coordinator
- 14 in each emergency preparedness region designated by the Division of
- 15 Emergency Management and Homeland Security within the

16 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; (5) require
17 the State Fire Administrator to develop facilities across the state where
18 people can train for and take the candidate physical ability test for
19 firefighters; (6) require the Department of Emergency Services and
20 Public Protection to provide instructors and facilities sufficient to
21 conduct training for at least three classes of recruits at the state fire
22 school each year; (7) require the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority
23 to develop and administer a mortgage assistance program for
24 uniformed members of paid or volunteer fire departments; (8) waive the
25 payment of tuition (A) at any college or university that is part of the
26 state system of public higher education for (i) paid or volunteer
27 firefighters with at least two years of service, and (ii) the dependent
28 children of paid or volunteer firefighters with at least five years of
29 service, and (B) for any student enrolled in a college, university or
30 regional community-technical college that is part of the state system of
31 public higher education who attends the state fire school as part of a
32 program offered in coordination with the college, university or regional
33 community-technical college in which such student is enrolled; (9)
34 require the State Retirement Commission to establish a volunteer
35 firefighter length of service award program; and (10) require the
36 Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to study the different levels
37 of training and certification of firefighters and the benefits available to
38 firefighters and recommend changes to recruit and retain firefighters.

Statement of Purpose:

To support the hiring and retention of volunteer and paid firefighters in the state.