



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7119

LCO No. 5489



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE FIRE PREVENTION CODE,
STATE FIRE SAFETY CODE, STATE BUILDING CODE AND
ELEVATOR INSPECTIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 29-349 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
5 shall have exclusive jurisdiction [in the preparation of and may enforce
6 reasonable regulations for] over explosives and blasting agents. The
7 commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions
8 of chapter 54 regarding the safe and convenient storage, transportation
9 and use of explosives and blasting agents used in connection therewith.
10 [which] Such regulations shall (1) deal in particular with the quantity
11 and character of explosives and blasting agents to be stored, transported
12 and used, the proximity of such storage to inhabited dwellings or other
13 occupied buildings, public highways and railroad tracks, the character
14 and construction of suitable magazines for such storage, protective

15 measures to secure such stored explosives and blasting agents and the
16 abatement of any hazard that may arise incident to the storage,
17 transportation or use of such explosives and blasting agents, and (2) be
18 consistent with the State Fire Prevention Code.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 29-357 of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
21 *passage*):

22 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
23 shall have exclusive jurisdiction over fireworks and the indoor use of
24 pyrotechnics, sparklers and fountains for special effects. Said
25 commissioner shall adopt [reasonable] regulations [,] in accordance
26 with the provisions of chapter 54, which regulations shall (1) establish a
27 procedure for the granting of permits for supervised displays of
28 fireworks or for the indoor use of pyrotechnics, sparklers and fountains
29 for special effects by municipalities, fair associations, amusement parks,
30 other organizations or groups of individuals or artisans in pursuit of
31 their trade, and (2) be consistent with the State Fire Prevention Code.
32 Such permit may be issued upon application to said commissioner and
33 after [(1)] (A) inspection of the site of such display or use by the local
34 fire marshal to determine compliance with the requirements of such
35 regulations, and [(2)] (B) approval of the chiefs of the police and fire
36 departments, or, if there is no police or fire department, of the first
37 selectman, of the municipality wherein the display is to be held as is
38 provided in this section. No such display shall be handled or fired by
39 any person until such person has been granted a certificate of
40 competency by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
41 Protection, in respect to which a fee of two hundred dollars shall be
42 payable to the State Treasurer when issued and which may be renewed
43 every three years upon payment of a fee of one hundred ninety dollars
44 payable to the State Treasurer, provided such certificate may be
45 suspended or revoked by said commissioner at any time for cause. Such
46 certificate of competency shall attest to the fact that such operator is
47 competent to fire a display. Such display shall be of such a character and

48 so located, discharged or fired as in the opinion of the chiefs of the police
 49 and fire departments or such selectman, after proper inspection, will not
 50 be hazardous to property or endanger any person or persons. In an
 51 aerial bomb, no salute, report or maroon may be used that is composed
 52 of a formula of chlorate of potash, sulphur, black needle antimony and
 53 dark aluminum. Formulas that may be used in a salute, report or
 54 maroon are as follows: [(A)] (i) Perchlorate of potash, black needle
 55 antimony and dark aluminum, and [(B)] (ii) perchlorate of potash, dark
 56 aluminum and sulphur. No high explosive such as dynamite, fulminate
 57 of mercury or other stimulator for detonating shall be used in any aerial
 58 bomb or other pyrotechnics. Application for permits shall be made in
 59 writing at least fifteen days prior to the date of display, on such notice
 60 as the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection by
 61 regulation prescribes, on forms furnished by the commissioner, and a
 62 fee of one hundred dollars shall be payable to the State Treasurer with
 63 each such application. After such permit has been granted, sales,
 64 possession, use and distribution of fireworks for such display shall be
 65 lawful for that purpose only. No permit granted hereunder shall be
 66 transferable. Any permit issued under the provisions of this section may
 67 be suspended or revoked by the Commissioner of Emergency Services
 68 and Public Protection or the local fire marshal for violation by the
 69 permittee of any provision of the general statutes, any regulation or any
 70 ordinance relating to fireworks.

71 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 29-357a of the general statutes is
 72 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
 73 *passage*):

74 (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
 75 shall have exclusive jurisdiction over supervised displays of special
 76 effects produced by pyrotechnics or flame producing devices. Said
 77 commissioner shall adopt regulations [] in accordance with the
 78 provisions of chapter 54, which regulations shall (1) establish a
 79 procedure for the granting of permits for supervised displays of special
 80 effects produced by pyrotechnics, including sparklers and fountains, or

81 flame producing devices by municipalities, fair associations,
82 amusement parks, other organizations or groups of individuals or
83 artisans in pursuit of their trade, [. Such regulations shall] (2) include
84 provisions for determining the competency of persons intending to
85 discharge or fire such special effects, and (3) be consistent with the State
86 Fire Prevention Code. Such regulations shall not apply to ceremonial
87 activities that include minimal use of pyrotechnics or flame producing
88 devices.

89 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 29-367 of the general statutes is
90 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
91 *passage*):

92 (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
93 shall have exclusive jurisdiction over rockets propelled by rocket
94 motors. Said commissioner shall adopt, and may amend, [reasonable]
95 regulations [.] in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
96 concerning the safe design, construction, manufacture, testing,
97 certification, storage, sale, shipping, operation and launching of rockets
98 propelled by rocket motors, including, but not limited to, solid, liquid
99 and cold propellant, hybrid, steam or pressurized liquid rocket motors.
100 Such regulations shall (1) include provisions for the prevention of injury
101 to life and damage to property and protection of hazards incident to the
102 design, construction, manufacture, testing, storage, sale, shipping,
103 operation and launching of such rockets, and (2) be consistent with the
104 State Fire Prevention Code. The commissioner shall enforce such
105 regulations.

106 Sec. 5. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 29-291a of the general statutes
107 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
108 *from passage*):

109 (b) There is established an advisory committee consisting of [nine]
110 eleven persons appointed by the State Fire Marshal. The State Fire
111 Marshal shall appoint two members selected from a list of individuals

112 submitted by the Codes and Standards Committee from the
113 membership of said committee, [and] seven members representing local
114 fire marshals, deputy fire marshals and fire inspectors selected from a
115 list of individuals submitted by the Connecticut Fire Marshals
116 Association and two members selected from a list of individuals
117 submitted by the Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit of the Division
118 of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
119 Protection.

120 (c) The State Fire Marshal and the Commissioner of Emergency
121 Services and Public Protection may issue official interpretations of the
122 State Fire Prevention Code [, including interpretations of the
123 applicability of any provision of the code,] upon the request of any
124 person. The State Fire Marshal and the Commissioner of Emergency
125 Services and Public Protection shall jointly compile and index each
126 interpretation and shall publish such interpretations at periodic
127 intervals not exceeding four months.

128 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 29-293 of the general statutes is
129 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
130 *1, 2025*):

131 (a) (1) The Fire Safety Code and the State Fire Prevention Code shall
132 specify reasonable minimum requirements for fire safety in new and
133 existing buildings and facilities.

134 (2) Any nonresident owner of a building or structure regulated by the
135 State Fire Safety Code and the State Fire Prevention Code, except for
136 residential buildings designed to be occupied by one or two families,
137 shall register with the local fire marshal having jurisdiction over such
138 building or structure, in such form and manner as prescribed by the
139 local fire marshal. The registration shall include the following
140 information: (A) Such nonresident owner's identifying information, and
141 (B) if the nonresident owner is a corporation, partnership, trust or other
142 legal entity, the identifying information for the individual who exercises

143 day-to-day financial or operational control of such corporation,
144 partnership, trust or other legal entity. For purposes of this subsection,
145 "identifying information" means an individual's name, date of birth,
146 current residential address and motor vehicle operator's license number
147 or other identification number issued by a governmental agency or
148 entity, and "nonresident owner" means an individual who does not
149 reside at a building or structure regulated by the State Fire Safety Code
150 and the State Fire Prevention Code but owns such building or structure
151 or exercises control over such building or structure.

152 Sec. 7. Section 29-291c of the general statutes is repealed and the
153 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

154 (a) When the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal ascertains that
155 there exists in any building, or upon any premises, a condition that
156 violates the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code, the State Fire
157 Marshal or local fire marshal shall order such condition remedied by the
158 owner or occupant of such building or premises. Any such remedy shall
159 be in conformance with all building codes, ordinances, rules and
160 regulations of the municipality involved. Such owner or occupant shall
161 be subject to the penalties prescribed by subsection (e) of this section.
162 [and, in addition, may be fined fifty dollars a day for each day's
163 continuance of each violation, to be recovered in a proper action in the
164 name of the state.]

165 (b) Upon failure of an owner or occupant to abate or remedy a
166 violation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section within a reasonable
167 period of time specified by the State Fire Marshal or the local fire
168 marshal, the local fire marshal shall promptly notify, in writing, the
169 prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction in the municipality in which
170 such violation or condition exists of all of the relevant facts. The local
171 fire marshal may request the chief executive officer, any official of the
172 municipality authorized to institute actions on behalf of the
173 municipality in which the hazard exists or the State Fire Marshal, to
174 apply to any court of equitable jurisdiction for an injunction against

175 such owner or occupant for the purpose of closing or restricting from
176 public service or use the place or premises containing the violation or
177 condition until the violation or condition has been remedied, or the State
178 Fire Marshal may apply for such an injunction without such request.

179 (c) The State Fire Marshal or any local fire marshal empowered to
180 enforce the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code may, as an
181 alternative to issuing an order pursuant to subsection (a) of this section,
182 give the owner or occupant a written citation for any violation of the
183 applicable code. No such citation may be issued if the owner or
184 occupant has been previously issued a citation for the same violation by
185 the State Fire Marshal or the local fire marshal within six months prior
186 to the current violation. Such citation shall contain the name and
187 address, if known, of the owner or occupant, the specific offense
188 charged and the time and place of the violation. The citation shall be
189 signed by the State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal and shall be signed
190 by the owner or occupant in acknowledgment that such citation has
191 been received. The State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal shall, if
192 practicable, deliver a copy of the citation to the owner or occupant at the
193 time and place of the violation or shall use some other reasonable means
194 of notification. Any person who is issued a citation for violation of any
195 provision of the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code in
196 accordance with this subsection shall be fined not more than two
197 hundred fifty dollars.

198 (d) If a local fire marshal issues a citation pursuant to subsection (c)
199 of this section, the state shall remit to the municipalities in which the
200 violations occurred ninety per cent of the proceeds of the fine and shall
201 remit to the State Treasurer the remaining ten per cent. If the State Fire
202 Marshal issues a citation pursuant to said subsection, the state shall
203 remit to the State Treasurer the entire proceeds of the fine. Each clerk of
204 the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, on or before the
205 thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, shall
206 certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter
207 under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the

208 clerk or official.

209 (e) [In addition to the fine prescribed in subsection (a) of this section,
210 any person] Any person, including, but not limited to, a corporation,
211 partnership, trust or other legal entity, who violates any provision of the
212 State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code shall, for a first offense,
213 be fined [not less than] two hundred fifty dollars [or more than one
214 thousand dollars or be imprisoned not more than six months, or both]
215 and, for a subsequent offense, be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

216 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 29-306 of the general statutes is
217 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
218 *1, 2025*):

219 (a) (1) When the local fire marshal ascertains that there exists in any
220 building, or upon any premises, [(1)] (A) combustible or explosive
221 matter, dangerous accumulation of rubbish or any flammable material
222 especially liable to fire, that is so situated as to endanger life or property,
223 [(2)] (B) obstructions or conditions that present a fire hazard to the
224 occupants or interfere with their egress in case of fire, or [(3)] (C) a
225 condition in violation of the statutes relating to fire prevention or safety,
226 or any regulation made pursuant thereto, the remedy of which requires
227 construction or a change in structure, the local fire marshal shall order
228 such materials to be immediately removed or the conditions remedied
229 by the owner or occupant of such building or premises. Any such
230 removal or remedy shall be in conformance with all building codes,
231 ordinances, rules and regulations of the municipality involved.

232 (2) Any person, [firm or] corporation, partnership, trust or other legal
233 entity which violates any provision of this subsection shall, for a first
234 offense, be fined [not more than one] two hundred fifty dollars [or be
235 imprisoned not more than three months, or both, and, in addition, may
236 be fined fifty dollars a day for each day's continuance of each violation,
237 to be recovered in a proper action in the name of the state] and, for a
238 subsequent offense, be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

239 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) The State Building Inspector
240 and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, jointly, with the
241 approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, include in the
242 amendments to the State Building Code next adopted after October 1,
243 2025, provisions that:

244 (1) Require a residential building consisting of six stories and
245 containing less than twenty-five dwelling units to install and maintain
246 a passenger elevator that is of sufficient size to accommodate two
247 persons, one of whom uses a wheelchair; and

248 (2) Define the terms "high tunnels" and "hoop homes" and classify
249 such high tunnels and hoop homes as temporary agricultural structures.

250 Sec. 10. Section 29-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the
251 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

252 (a) [The] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the State
253 Building Code, including any amendment to said code adopted by the
254 State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee, shall
255 be the building code for all towns, cities and boroughs.

256 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, the State Building Inspector and the
257 Codes and Standards Committee shall jointly develop and promulgate
258 a model ordinance that establishes a set of energy-efficiency
259 requirements with respect to buildings or building projects that are
260 more stringent than the energy-efficiency requirements of the State
261 Building Code. Said inspector and committee shall consider input from
262 the public and interested parties in the process of developing such
263 model ordinance. A town, city or borough may, by ordinance, adopt
264 such model ordinance and the adopted ordinance shall supersede the
265 energy-efficiency requirements of the State Building Code. The
266 remaining provisions of the State Building Code shall apply to such
267 town, city or borough.

268 [(b)] (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent any town, city or

269 borough from adopting an ordinance governing the demolition of
 270 buildings deemed to be unsafe. As used in this subsection, "unsafe
 271 building" means a building that constitutes a fire hazard or is otherwise
 272 dangerous to human life or the public welfare.

273 Sec. 11. Section 29-195 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 274 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

275 [Each] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each
 276 elevator or escalator shall be thoroughly inspected by a department
 277 elevator inspector at least once each eighteen months, except elevators
 278 located in private residences shall be inspected upon the request of the
 279 owner. More frequent inspections of any elevator or escalator shall be
 280 made if the condition thereof indicates that additional inspections are
 281 necessary or desirable.

282 (b) Each elevator at a congregate housing facility shall be thoroughly
 283 inspected by a department elevator inspector at least once each twelve
 284 months. For each such inspection, the department elevator inspector
 285 shall submit a report to the State Building Inspector that describes the
 286 status of each elevator at such facility, describes the status of any
 287 elevator repair and specifies the duration of time during which any
 288 inoperable elevator at such facility is expected to remain inoperable. For
 289 purposes of this subsection, "congregate housing" has the same meaning
 290 as provided in section 8-119e.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	29-349(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	29-357(b)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	29-357a(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	29-367(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	29-291a(b) and (c)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-293(a)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-291c
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-306(a)

Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-253
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-195

Statement of Purpose:

To make various revisions to the public safety statutes relating to the State Fire Prevention Code, State Fire Safety Code, State Building Code and elevator inspections.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]