



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 7120***

LCO No. 5396



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER TURNOUT GEAR, A  
FIREFIGHTER CANCER SCREENING PILOT PROGRAM AND  
GRANTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF PFAS FROM FIRE APPARATUS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-313o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) (1) The Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations, in  
4 consultation with the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, [must  
5 come up with] shall develop a joint plan for the maintenance and  
6 remediation of toxic substances on turnout gear. Such plan shall be  
7 submitted to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control by July 1,  
8 2023. Upon approval of such plan, the commission shall advise fire  
9 departments on implementation of the plan.

10 [(b)] (2) Within ninety days of approval by the commission, each fire  
11 department shall adopt a plan for the maintenance and remediation of  
12 toxic substances on turnout gear.

13 (b) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "firefighter" has the same

14 meaning as provided in section 7-313g, "municipality" has the same  
15 meaning as provided in section 7-303 and "PFAS" has the same meaning  
16 as provided in section 22a-255h.

17 (2) Each municipality shall provide a set of turnout gear that does not  
18 contain PFAS, in addition to the standard number of sets of turnout gear  
19 provided to each firefighter, to any firefighter who is diagnosed with  
20 cancer, has a predisposition to cancer or has an increased risk of  
21 developing cancer due to such firefighter's family history or the results  
22 of genetic testing.

23 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2025, the State  
24 Fire Marshal shall establish a one-year pilot program to reimburse  
25 firefighters, as defined in section 7-313g of the general statutes, who  
26 receive screening for cancers common to firefighters. The State Fire  
27 Marshal shall consult with a nonprofit organization with expertise in the  
28 field of cancer screening to determine which cancer screenings shall  
29 qualify for reimbursement pursuant to the pilot program. The pilot  
30 program shall be operated in one municipality with a population that is  
31 serviced by a volunteer fire department and one municipality with a  
32 population that is serviced by a paid fire department. On and after the  
33 effective date of this section, the State Fire Marshal shall accept  
34 applications for participation in the pilot program, in a form and  
35 manner prescribed by the State Fire Marshal, from municipalities. Not  
36 later than January 1, 2027, the State Fire Marshal shall submit a report  
37 on the results of the pilot program, including any recommendations for  
38 continuation or expansion of the pilot program, to the joint standing  
39 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
40 relating to public safety and security, in accordance with the provisions  
41 of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

42 Sec. 3. Subdivision (10) of subsection (b) of section 41 of public act 23-  
43 204 is repealed and the following is substitute in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
44 *from passage*):

45 (10) The sum of \$3,000,000 to the Department of Emergency Services  
 46 and Public Protection, for Other Expenses, for the fiscal year ending  
 47 June 30, 2024, to provide grants to municipalities, independent fire  
 48 companies and state agencies to remove PFAS from fire apparatus or  
 49 provide reimbursement for the removal of PFAS from fire apparatus  
 50 that occurred prior to July 1, 2023;

51 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Any funds remaining under subdivision  
 52 (10) of subsection (b) of section 41 of public act 23-204, as amended by  
 53 this act, at the conclusion of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, shall  
 54 not lapse on June 30, 2025, and such funds shall be available to the  
 55 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, for Other  
 56 Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to provide grants to  
 57 municipalities, independent fire companies and state agencies to  
 58 remove PFAS from fire apparatus or to provide reimbursement for  
 59 removal of PFAS from fire apparatus that occurred prior to July 1, 2023.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	7-313o
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	PA 23-204, Sec. 41(b)(10)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) establish that municipalities shall provide additional sets of turnout gear to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer, have a predisposition to cancer or have an increased risk of developing cancer, (2) establish a pilot program to screen paid and volunteer firefighters for cancers common to firefighters, and (3) make independent fire companies and state entities eligible for grants to remove PFAS from fire apparatus and also allow grants to provide reimbursement for removals of PFAS that occurred prior to July 1, 2023.

***[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.]***