

# Public Safety and Security Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-368 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE EXPLOSIVES, BLASTING AND

**Title:** PYROTECHNIC CODE.

**Vote Date:** 3/17/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/5/2026

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

While there are current regulations in place regarding their use, this bill would create and administer, under the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in coordination with an advisory committee to be established, a State Explosives, Blasting and Pyrotechnic Code. This bill aims to better align Connecticut state code regarding the use of explosives blasting and pyrotechnic code with that of nationally recognized standards and codes and inform the public of the most up to date and safe uses of these devices.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**[Ronnell A. Higgins, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection:](#)** Commissioner Higgins opposes the bill because it would require the DESPP to create a new regulatory framework for explosives, blasting, and pyrotechnics. The Commissioner adds that an advisory committee is created in the bill, and it would be composed of primarily individuals outside of the enforcement of this agency. He states that this would allow members to out vote individuals who are responsible for writing and enforcing these regulations. Commissioner Higgins expressed concern that the bill creates significant fiscal costs to the agency not included in the Governor's budget. He explains that this agency would need to expand the Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit (FEIU), which would require more staff to be employed.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Michael Dapkus, Co-owner, Dapkus Fireworks of Durham:** Mr. Dapkus is in support of the bill; however, he expressed the following recommended change to this piece of legislation:

**Recommended Change:**

- Lines 24 through 26 are amended to read: "whereas one member from the blasting industry and one member from the pyrotechnic industry, who has extensive knowledge and experience in their respected industries, be appointed to the committee."

**Roger Nelson, President, Fire Marshals Association:** Mr. Nelson offered testimony in support of the bill. He states that Firework regulations are out of date and are in need of an update. He adds that the bill maintains DESPP's control and creates a Code Committee that includes all interested organizations and provides DESPP the same adoption process used for the Fire Codes. In his testimony Mr. Nelson also includes more information and answers to possible questions the committee may have

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**Reported by:** Emma Rybacki, Clerk  
Olivia Buczak, Assist. Clerk

**Date:** 3/26/26