



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 277

LCO No. 1543



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

(PS)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FIRE MARSHAL QUALIFICATIONS, BURN INJURY REPORTS AND STATE BUILDING CODE PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCESSIBILITY.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 29-298 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (a) The State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee,
5 acting jointly, shall adopt minimum standards of qualification for local
6 fire marshals, deputy fire marshals, fire inspectors and such other
7 classes of fire code inspectors and fire investigators as they deem
8 necessary. For local fire marshals, [deputy fire marshals and fire
9 inspectors,] such standards shall include a requirement that the person
10 (1) is certified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (2) has [(1)]
11 (A) at least [three] two years' experience [(A)] (i) in fire suppression or
12 fire prevention activities, [(B)] (ii) in responding and controlling releases
13 or potential releases of hazardous materials, [(C)] (iii) in inspection
14 activities concerning the fire safety or prevention code or hazardous

15 materials, [(D)] (iv) in the investigation of the cause and origin of fires
16 and explosions, or [(E)] (v) as a sworn member of the Division of State
17 Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
18 Protection or an organized local police department, or [(2)] (B)
19 equivalent experience as determined by the State Fire Marshal and the
20 Codes and Standards Committee.

21 Sec. 2. Section 29-292a of the general statutes is amended by adding
22 subsection (l) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

23 (NEW) (l) The State Fire Marshal may issue official interpretations of
24 the Fire Safety Code, including interpretations of the applicability of any
25 provision of the code, upon the request of any person. The State Fire
26 Marshal shall compile and index each interpretation and shall publish
27 such interpretations at periodic intervals not exceeding four months.

28 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) On or before January 1, 2027,
29 and annually thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall report to
30 the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding (1) all burn injuries and
31 injuries resulting from fireworks or explosives, (2) any death resulting
32 from burn injuries, smoke inhalation or injuries resulting from
33 fireworks or explosives, and (3) any death to which burn injuries, smoke
34 inhalation or injuries resulting from fireworks or explosives
35 contributed. In providing such report, the department shall utilize death
36 certificate information in accordance with section 7-51a of the general
37 statutes and hospital discharge data provided to the department in
38 accordance with section 19a-2a of the general statutes. The office shall
39 compile the information contained in the report, publish a statistical
40 abstract and annually submit such abstract to each local fire marshal and
41 the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
42 4a of the general statutes.

43 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 9-168d of the general statutes is
44 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
45 *1, 2026*):

46 (b) The registrars of voters in each town, or the legislative body of the
47 town, shall select as polling places only those sites which meet the
48 standards of accessibility required under the State Building Code [, as
49 revised pursuant to section 29-269, if applicable,] or this section. The
50 registrars of voters in each town shall file with the Secretary of the State
51 either: (1) A certification, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State, that
52 states that each polling place selected complies with the provisions set
53 forth in this subsection, or (2) an application for waiver, as described in
54 subsection (c) of this section.

55 Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 14-253a of the 2026 supplement to the
56 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
57 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

58 (i) Any public parking garage or terminal, as defined in the State
59 Building Code, constructed under a building permit application filed on
60 or after October 1, 1985, and prior to October 1, 2004, shall have nine feet
61 six inches' vertical clearance at a primary entrance and along the route
62 to at least two parking spaces which conform with the requirements of
63 subsection (h) of this section and which have nine feet six inches' vertical
64 clearance unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to the
65 provisions of subsection (b) of section [29-269] 29-254. Each public
66 parking garage or terminal, as defined in the State Building Code,
67 constructed under a building permit application filed on or after
68 October 1, 2004, shall have eight feet two inches' vertical clearance at a
69 primary entrance and along the route to at least two parking spaces for
70 passenger vans which conform with the requirements of subsection (h)
71 of this section and which have eight feet two inches' vertical clearance
72 unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to the provisions of
73 subsection (b) of section [29-269] 29-254.

74 Sec. 6. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section
75 46a-64c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and
76 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

77 (C) For purposes of this subdivision, discrimination includes: (i) A
 78 refusal to permit, at the expense of a person with a physical or mental
 79 disability, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to
 80 be occupied by such person if such modifications may be necessary to
 81 afford such person full enjoyment of the premises; except that, in the
 82 case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so,
 83 condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore
 84 the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the
 85 modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted; (ii) a refusal to make
 86 reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services,
 87 when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person
 88 equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; (iii) in connection with
 89 the design and construction of covered multifamily dwellings for the
 90 first occupancy after March 13, 1991, a failure to design and construct
 91 those dwellings in such manner that they comply with the requirements
 92 of Section 804(f) of the Fair Housing Act or the provisions of the [state
 93 building code as adopted pursuant to the provisions of sections 29-269
 94 and 29-273, whichever requires greater accommodation] State Building
 95 Code. "Covered multifamily dwellings" means buildings consisting of
 96 four or more units if such buildings have one or more elevators, and
 97 ground floor units in other buildings consisting of four or more units.

98 Sec. 7. Sections 19a-510a, 29-269 and 29-274 of the general statutes are
 99 repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2026*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	29-298(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	29-292a(l)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	9-168d(b)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-253a(i)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46a-64c(a)(6)(C)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement various provisions recommended by the Department of Administrative Services regarding fire marshal qualifications, burn injury reports and State Building Code provisions relating to accessibility.

[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.]