
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5276

AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER UNDER THE STATE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT.

SUMMARY

This bill requires volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies to comply with the state's Occupational Safety and Health Act (Conn-OSHA) as employers unless they are regulated by the federal OSHA law. By law, Conn-OSHA governs workplace safety for the state and its political subdivisions as employers, but certain nongovernmental volunteer fire and ambulance companies are not considered employers under its current jurisdiction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Related Case

In *Mayfield v. Goshen Volunteer Fire Company* (301 Conn. 739 (2011)), the state Supreme Court ruled that a privately chartered volunteer fire company is not a political subdivision of the state (and not subject to Conn-OSHA jurisdiction) if it is not controlled by a municipality or municipal officials.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 4 (03/05/2026)