

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Pat Boyd Celebrates Major Legislative Accomplishments of Public Safety and Security Committee

New legislation will support firefighters, police, and emergency medical personnel

Public Safety and Security Committee **House Chair Pat Boyd (D-Pomfret)** celebrates three major priorities that were passed during the 2024 legislative session, HB 5279, HB 5483, and SB 341, which will support firefighters, police officers, emergency medical workers, and their families for years to come.

HB 5279 concerns the authority to declare that a firefighter, police officer, or emergency medical service personnel died in the line of duty. This law will take effect on July 1.

HB 5483 established and transferred various functions to a division of Fire Services Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, revising the power and composition of the commission on fire prevention and control.

SB 341 established a fallen officer fund and provides health insurance coverage to survivors of a police officer killed in the line of duty. The Governor signed this bill into law yesterday, and it will take effect on July 1.

“It’s always been an honor for me to serve as Chair of a committee that has such wide-ranging affects for Connecticut,” said Rep. Boyd. “Public safety is something that everyone in Connecticut needs our committee to focus on and get right every year. This is why I’m happy to have achieved these legislative priorities that will help out many of the men and women who work so hard to keep our communities safe.”

“As the son and brother of police officers, I know the risks our officers take every day to keep our communities safe,” **Comptroller Sean Scanlon said.** “I am honored to have worked alongside Representative Candelora and our partners in law enforcement to establish the Fallen Officer Fund to support the families of Connecticut police officers or state troopers killed in the

line of duty. I thank Governor Lamont for signing this meaningful legislation into law to ensure that the loved ones of our fallen officers get the immediate support they deserve.”

“The passing of both these bills [HB 5483 and SB 341] were a high priority for the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations, which represents both career and volunteer firefighters across our state. Despite long hours and various changes to get these bills to their final stages, this will help move Connecticut’s fire service forward,” said **Glastonbury Fire Department Chief Michael Thurz**. “The Joint Council, which represents the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association, Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, Connecticut Instructors Association, Uniform Professional Firefighters Associations and Connecticut Fire Mechanics Association is ever grateful to the legislature for supporting both of these bills.”

Rep. Boyd serves the 50th District which includes Ashford, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Mansfield, Pomfret, and Woodstock. In addition to working as the House Chair of the Public Safety and Security Committee, Boyd also serves on the Committee of Veterans’ and Military Affairs as well as the Committee on Children.

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