



**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AND HOMELAND SECURITY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**Summary of 2007 Session Legislative Changes Affecting
Emergency Management.**

A number of Public Acts affecting emergency management issues were passed during the recently-concluded 2007 legislative session, and signed into law by the Governor. The following is a brief summary of the major new laws, or changes to current law:

HB 7024 (PA 07-56)- AN ACT CREATING AN INTRASTATE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

The bill enacts and commits state's participating political subdivisions (towns) to the terms of the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact. The compact provides a legal framework for towns to request and provide mutual aid when any member town declares a local civil preparedness emergency.

Any town may withdraw from the compact by enacting a resolution to that effect and submitting a copy of the resolution, within 10 days after adopting it, to the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) commissioner.

The bill also outlines responsibilities of local civil preparedness organizations, procedures for activating the compact, permit and license reciprocity, and reimbursement and liability issues.

HB 7025 (PA 07-173)- AN ACT CONCERNING CIVIL PREPAREDNESS

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

The bill requires that towns consider whether to provide for the nonmilitary evacuation of livestock and horses in their emergency plans of operation. By January 1 and annually thereafter, it requires towns to submit current plans, approved by the local chief executive officer and civil preparedness director, to the Department of Emergency



Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) commissioner for approval. If a town makes no plan changes from the previous year, it may include a notice to that effect. Current law requires towns to submit plans, following the same procedure, but it does not require them to be current or submitted annually. Under current law and the bill, towns that fail to follow the procedures are not eligible for state and federal emergency and homeland security funds.

The bill also requires people serving in local civil preparedness organizations to take oaths annually. Under current law, they take oaths only upon entering office. The bill requires that anyone, beside the local civil preparedness director, administering the oath, be empowered by the DEMHS commissioner instead of the director.

The bill also requires each local civil preparedness officer to provide DEMHS with a roster of sworn volunteer civil preparedness force members by August 15 each year.

The bill also reduces the frequency of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council meetings from monthly to quarterly.

SB 707 (PA 07-202)- AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAY SCALE OF THE STATE POLICE, THE PREQUALIFICATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND CERTAIN REVISIONS TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

Section 12 of the Public Act:

This section exempts the disclosure of certain records under the Freedom of Information Act. The section also narrows the responsibility of the Commissioner of Public Works, and expands the responsibility of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the purposes of determining exemptions of certain records.

SB 1110 (PA 07-208)- AN ACT CONCERNING SECURITY ASSESSMENTS AND ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007, except for the grants, which take effect on passage.



The bill establishes a competitive state grant for FY 08 (\$5 million for each of the next two years was included in the state budget) to improve security infrastructure in schools, install security systems in schools' primary entryways, purchase portable security devices, and train school personnel to use the devices and the infrastructure. The grants reimburse school districts for 20% to 80% of the eligible expenses for such security measures incurred after the bill's effective date. To receive a grant, a district must show that it (1) has conducted a uniform security assessment of its school entrances and any security infrastructure; (2) has an emergency plan at its schools that has been developed with applicable state and local first-responders; and (3) periodically practices the plan. The security assessment must be carried out under the supervision of the district's local law enforcement agency and use the Safe Schools Facilities Check List published by the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities.

The bill also requires colleges, universities, and private occupational schools to (1) by October 1, 2007, have emergency response plans and (2) by that date and annually thereafter, submit their plans to the public safety (DPS) and emergency management and homeland security (DEMHS) commissioners and local first-responders. Institutions must consult local first-responders in developing their plans. Each plan must include a method for notifying the institution's students, employees, and visitors of emergency information.

SB 1017 (PA 07-94)- AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY PLANS OF OPERATIONS OF SHORELINE COMMUNITIES AND THE DESIGNATION OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS HAZARD AND SECURITY ZONES.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007 for the security and hazard zones; October 1, 2007 for the emergency plans and security service provisions.

The bill (1) requires the attorney general to recommend that the U. S. Coast Guard designate a hazard zone around any liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal located or proposed on Long Island Sound that will affect Connecticut, (2) requires the attorney general to recommend that the federal government designate a security zone around any such facility, and (3) prohibits any security service from operating in state waters without state legislative and executive approval. The bill requires legislative and executive approval of the hazard and security zone designations as well.

The bill also requires the emergency operations plan of every shoreline town or city to contain provisions for addressing any emergency caused by an existing LNG facility on the Sound. It requires the town to submit the plan to the Public Safety and Security



Committee and Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) commissioner for approval. The committee must hold a hearing on the plan within 30 days after getting it and, within five days after the hearing, it must approve or reject the plan by roll call vote and forward the plan and vote record to the legislature.

The bill also requires the attorney general to recommend to the U. S. Coast Guard that it designate a hazard zone around any LNG terminal located on, or proposed for, Long Island Sound that will affect Connecticut waters or land. The attorney general must make his recommendations in writing and in consultation with the DEMHS commissioner and submit them to the governor and the legislature.

The bill also prohibits any private security service from operating on state waters without prior legislative and executive approval.

The bill also exempts certain services from the definition of security services.

HB 5186 (PA-07-11)- AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVACUATION OF PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS AND APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLAN OF OPERATIONS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

The bill requires local civil preparedness plans include provisions for evacuating pets and service animals during emergencies. It also prohibits the emergency management and homeland security commissioner from approving a plan unless it includes such provisions and strategies addressing the other civil preparedness activities and measures required by existing law.

HB 7270 (PA 07-106)- AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY 9-1-1 SURCHARGE, THE MISUSE OF THE E 9-1-1 SYSTEM AND THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATING COUNCIL.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Passage

Under current law, the council includes one local or regional civil preparedness director appointed by the House speaker. The bill adds another and requires that, the Connecticut Emergency Management Association designate this member by July 1, 2007. It replaces the term "civil preparedness director" with "emergency management director" to conform to other statutes. Members serve three years from the time of appointment or until a successor is appointed.

HB 7432 (PA 07-242)- AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY.



EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the bond authorization, which is effective July 1, 2007

Section 90 and 91 of the Public Act

These sections of the Public Act require CII (Connecticut Innovations), in consultation with DPUC, and the departments of Education and Emergency Management and Homeland Security, to establish a municipal renewable energy and efficient energy generation grant program. CII must make grants under the program to municipalities to purchase and operate (1) renewable energy sources, including solar energy, geothermal energy, and fuel cells or other energy-efficient hydrogen-fueled energy or (2) energy-efficient generation sources, including cogeneration units that are at least 65% efficient, for municipal buildings. CII must give priority to applications for grants for disaster relief centers and high schools. Each grant must make the cost of purchasing and operating the generation source competitive with the municipality's current electricity expenses.

By October 1, 2007, CII must develop an application for these grants and can receive grant applications starting on this date. Applications must include a complete description of the proposed generation source. By January 1, annually, starting in 2009, Connecticut Innovations, Inc. must report on the program's effectiveness to Energy and Technology Committee.

The bill authorizes up to \$ 50 million in bonding for the program, with the proceeds going into a separate account within the Clean Energy Fund. For FY 08 and each of the next five fiscal years, at least \$ 10 million must go into the account (although the bill specifies that the program ends in FY 12, which would be FY 08 and the next four fiscal years). Any balance not used for the grants during a fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The bonds are subject to standard statutory issuance and repayment requirements.

HB 6209 (PA 07-152)- AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

This bill creates the Renewable Energy Investments Board. Under the bill, the Renewable Energy Investments Board has up to 15 members. The board consists of the Consumer Counsel and the heads of the following agencies, or their designees: the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Office of Policy and Management, and the Department of Environmental Protection. The board also has 11 appointed members, as described in Table 1. The membership of the new board is similar to that of the existing advisory committee.

