

The Connecticut General Assembly

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Memorandum

To: Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox
Representative Christie Carpino
Senator John Kissel
Representative Mary Welanders

From: Heather Bannister, Bradford Towson and Naurin Hashmi

Date: December 16, 2025

Subject: Proposed 2026 Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code

The **2026 Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code** was submitted on December 2, 2025 under section 29-291e of the general statutes, which permits the State Fire Marshal and advisory committee with the Department of Administrative Services to use a process for its adoption that is different than the process required for the adoption of regulations under chapter 54 of the general statutes, the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

Attached are the pages of the proposed **2026 Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code**. There are handwritten comments on the pages of the proposed code referenced in the table below that make recommendations for technical corrections or seek further clarification.

In addition, substantive concerns are noted below.

Substantive Concerns:

1. On page 2, in subdivision (5) of section 1.1.1*, the meaning of the phrase "that do not support the building" is unclear. The sentence should be rewritten to clarify the meaning.
2. On page 51, in section 25.5.3.1.1, the provision refers to definitions of "air-supported and air-inflated structures" in regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-136 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The terms "air-supported structure" and "air-inflated structure" are not defined in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Definitions for the terms or a correct citation where the definitions can be found should be added.

Additional Comments:

LCO COMMENTS	Page Numbers
Technical corrections	1-12, 15, 16, 23-33, 35-52, 54-60
Seek clarification	1, 9, 15, 17, 25, 26, 28, 32, 35, 45, 46, 49, 50

Recommendation:

	Approval in whole with technical corrections with deletions with substitute pages
	Disapproval in whole or in part
X	Rejection without prejudice

Statute referenced in this memo:

Sec. 29-291e. Procedure for adoption and amendment of State Fire Prevention Code.

(a) For the purposes of this section, "proposed code" means a proposal by the State Fire Marshal, in coordination with the advisory committee for a new State Fire Prevention Code or for a change in, addition to or repeal of any provision of the State Fire Prevention Code and "advisory committee" means the advisory committee established under subsection (b) of section 29-291a.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 54, the adoption of the State Fire Prevention Code and any amendments thereto shall not be required to comply with the provisions of chapter 54, except as provided in this section.

(c) Prior to the adoption of the State Fire Prevention Code and any amendments thereto, the State Fire Marshal shall (1) post any proposed code, a statement of purpose for which the proposed code is proposed, a fiscal note associated with compliance with the proposed code prepared pursuant to section 4-168 and a regulatory flexibility analysis prepared pursuant to section 4-168a on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services, (2) give notice electronically to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security, (3) give notice to any person who has requested the State Fire Marshal for advance notice of the proposed code adoption proceedings, (4) provide for a public comment period of forty-five days following the posting of such proposed code, fiscal note and regulatory flexibility analysis, and (5) hold a public hearing on the proposed code not less than twenty nor more than thirty-five days after such posting.

(d) After the close of the public comment period, the State Fire Marshal, in coordination with the advisory committee, shall respond to each written and oral comment respecting the proposed code received during the public comment period and at the public hearing. Such response shall include any change made to the proposed code if applicable, and the rationale for such change. The State Fire Marshal shall post such response on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services not later than thirty days after the close of the public comment period.

(e) The State Fire Marshal, in coordination with the advisory committee, shall create and maintain a code-making record for each proposed code, submit such code-making record electronically to the standing legislative regulation review committee and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to

public safety and security, and post such code-making record on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services. Such code-making record shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The final wording of the proposed code in a format consistent with a nationally recognized model building code, (2) the fiscal note prepared pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (3) the regulatory flexibility analysis prepared pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (4) all written and oral comments received during the public comment period, and (5) the response to such comments prepared pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

(f) The standing legislative regulation review committee shall have not more than forty-five days from the date the code-making record is submitted to the committee pursuant to subsection (e) of this section to convene a meeting to approve, disapprove or reject without prejudice the proposed code, in whole or in part. If the proposed code is withdrawn, the State Fire Marshal shall resubmit the proposed code and the committee shall have not more than forty-five days from the date of such resubmittal to convene a meeting to approve, disapprove or reject without prejudice the resubmitted proposed code. If the committee notifies the State Fire Marshal in writing that it is waiving its right to convene a meeting or does not act on a proposed code or a resubmitted proposed code, as the case may be, within such forty-five-day period, the proposed code or resubmitted proposed code shall be deemed to be approved by the committee.

(g) If the committee disapproves a proposed code, in whole or in part, the committee shall notify the State Fire Marshal of the disapproval and the reasons for the disapproval. The State Fire Marshal shall not take any action to implement such disapproved code, except that the State Fire Marshal may submit a substantively new proposed code in accordance with the provisions of this section, provided the General Assembly may reverse such disapproval in accordance with the provisions of section 4-171.

(h) If the committee rejects a proposed code without prejudice, in whole or in part, the committee shall notify the State Fire Marshal of the reasons for the rejection and the State Fire Marshal shall resubmit the proposed code in revised form to the committee not later than thirty days after the date of rejection without prejudice. Each resubmission of the proposed code under this subsection shall include a summary of any revisions to the proposed code. The committee shall have not more than forty-five days after the receipt of the resubmittal to review and take action on such resubmitted proposed code in the same manner as provided in subsection (f) of this section.

(i) The State Fire Prevention Code or any amendment thereto approved or deemed approved by the committee pursuant to subsection (f) of this section is effective and enforceable against any person or party upon its posting on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services, except that: (1) If a later date is required by statute or specified in the code, the later date is the effective date, and (2) a code may not be effective before the effective date of the public act requiring or permitting the code. Such posting shall include a statement by the State Fire Marshal certifying that the electronic copy of the code is a true and accurate copy of the code approved or deemed approved in accordance with subsection (f) of this section. The electronic copy of the State Fire Prevention Code posted on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services shall be the official version for all purposes, including all legal and administrative proceedings.

(j) No provision of the State Fire Prevention Code or any amendment thereto adopted after May 31, 2016, is valid unless adopted in substantial compliance with the requirements of this section. A proceeding to contest any provision of the code on the ground of noncompliance with the requirements of this section shall be commenced within two years from the effective date of the code.

(k) The State Fire Marshal shall advise the public concerning how to obtain a copy of the State Fire Prevention Code and any amendments thereto.

Sec. 29-356. (Formerly Sec. 29-96). Definitions. As used in sections 29-356 to 29-365, inclusive:

(1) "Fireworks" means and includes any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation, and includes blank cartridges, toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes or toy guns in which explosives are used, the type of balloons which require fire underneath to propel the same, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, Roman candles, Daygo bombs, and any fireworks containing any explosive or flammable compound, or any tablets or other device containing any explosive substance, except that the term "fireworks" shall not include sparklers and fountains and toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns or other devices in which paper caps manufactured in accordance with the regulations of the United States Interstate Commerce Commission or its successor agency for packing and shipping of toy paper caps are used and toy pistol paper caps manufactured as provided therein.

(2) "Sparklers" means a wire or stick coated with pyrotechnic composition that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition.

(3) "Fountain" means any cardboard or heavy paper cone or cylindrical tube containing pyrotechnic mixture that upon ignition produces a shower of colored sparks or smoke. "Fountain" includes, but is not limited to, (A) a spike fountain, which provides a spike for insertion into the ground, (B) a base fountain which has a wooden or plastic base for placing on the ground, or (C) a handle fountain which is a handheld device with a wooden or cardboard handle.