



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Substitute Bill No. 6477**



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

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 31-367 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (d) "Employer" means the state and any political subdivision thereof,  
5 and, except as provided in section 31-369, as amended by this act, any  
6 volunteer fire department and any volunteer ambulance company;

7 Sec. 2. Section 31-369 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
8 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

9 (a) This chapter applies to all employers, employees and places of  
10 employment in the state except the following: (1) Employees of the  
11 United States government; [and] (2) working conditions of employees  
12 over which federal agencies other than the United States Department of  
13 Labor exercise statutory authority to prescribe or enforce standards or  
14 regulations affecting occupational safety and health; and (3) any  
15 volunteer fire department or volunteer ambulance company that can  
16 demonstrate such department or company is regulated by the  
17 Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, 29 USC 651 et seq., as  
18 amended from time to time.

19 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to supersede or in any  
20 manner affect any workers' compensation law or to enlarge, diminish or  
21 affect in any manner common law or statutory rights, duties or liabilities  
22 of employers or employees, under any law with respect to injuries,  
23 diseases or death of employees arising out of and in the course of  
24 employment.

25 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 31-382 of the general statutes is  
26 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
27 *passage*):

28 (c) Any employer who has received a citation for a violation of the  
29 requirements of sections 31-369, as amended by this act, and 31-370, of  
30 any standard or order promulgated pursuant to section 31-372, or of  
31 regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, which violation is  
32 specifically determined not to be of a serious nature, may be assessed a  
33 civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars for each such violation,  
34 except that any volunteer fire department and any volunteer ambulance  
35 company shall, for the first such violation, only be issued a written  
36 warning.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	31-367(d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	31-369
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	31-382(c)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2(a)(3), "15 USC 651 et seq" was changed to "29 USC 651 et seq., as amended from time to time" for accuracy and consistency with standard drafting conventions; and in Section 3, "however," was changed to "except that" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**LAB** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO