



**PA 23-69**—sHB 5360

*Public Safety and Security Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARM INCIDENT REPORTS AND A TASK FORCE ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF POLICE OFFICERS**

**SUMMARY:** Starting October 1, 2023, this act requires that police officers responding to an alleged crime or fatality involving the use of a firearm complete a firearm incident report, whether or not an arrest is made. It requires law enforcement units to send these reports to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner and, in cases where an arrest was made, forward copies of them to the state’s attorney for the appropriate judicial district. (By law, and under the act, a “firearm” is a sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged (CGS § 53a-3).)

DESPP must create a form for these firearm incident reports by October 1, 2023, to establish accurate data on the extent and severity of firearm incidents in the state. Under the act, (1) each incident reported to the police counts as an offense and (2) a zero must be reported if no incidents occurred during the reporting periods. Starting by January 1, 2026, DESPP must annually tabulate and compile data from these incident reports and report its findings to the governor and the Public Safety and Security Committee. The commissioner must also annually publish the compiled data in its statutorily required annual report on crime in Connecticut.

Additionally, the act establishes a nine-member task force to study police recruitment and retention in Connecticut, make recommendations, and report to the legislature by January 1, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except the task force provision is effective upon passage.

**FIREARM INCIDENT REPORTS**

Under the act, DESPP’s form for these reports must include the following information:

1. the name of the person or people involved in the alleged crime or fatality;
2. the incident’s location, time, and date;
3. the number and identification of any firearm involved;
4. whether the alleged crime was committed, or fatality caused, by someone with a prior conviction that prohibited him or her from legally possessing a firearm;
5. whether the alleged crime was committed with, or fatality caused by, an illegally possessed or unregistered firearm; and
6. any other data necessary for a complete analysis of the circumstances of

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

firearm incidents in the state.

### POLICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE

Under the act, the task force is composed of the DESPP commissioner, or his designee, and eight appointees, one appointed by each of the top six legislative leaders and two appointed by the governor. Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments by July 26, 2023, and fill any vacancies. The legislative leaders' appointees may be legislators.

The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must choose the task force's chairpersons from its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the first meeting by August 25, 2023.

The Public Safety and Security Committee's administrative staff serves as the task force's administrative staff. The task force terminates when it submits its report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.