



PA 23-81—sHB 6722

Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR AID

SUMMARY: Existing law allows any municipality, with the approval of its chief executive officer (CEO) and its governing body if required by charter or ordinance, to enter into an agreement with any other municipality or municipalities on requesting and supplying police assistance and reimbursing or receiving reimbursement for the same. This act establishes terms that these agreements must include if entered into, renewed, or amended on and after July 1, 2023. Specifically, they must (1) allow each municipality’s police chief, or the chief’s designee, to request and provide police assistance and (2) require those who do so to inform their municipality’s CEO about the actions taken. The act’s requirements also apply to the same agreements that municipalities may have with (1) CEOs at the state’s public universities and colleges with special police forces; (2) the State Capitol Police chief; (3) CEOs of towns, cities, or boroughs that solely use constables for police protection; and (4) CEOs of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes.

Regardless of a prior agreement, prior law had a process for a municipality to request police assistance from another municipality and for the responding municipality to be reimbursed for its aid. The act makes several changes to this process, including authorizing the municipality’s police chief to make the request instead of its CEO, narrowing the circumstances when a request may be made, decreasing the amount of time assistance may be provided, and generally transferring responsibility for costs incurred from the requesting municipality to the one supplying the assistance.

By law and under the act, any police officer who provides police assistance by agreement or request has the same powers, duties, privileges, and immunities as the police officers of the municipality requesting assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

POLICE ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Prior law allowed a municipality’s CEO, or the CEO’s designee, to request police assistance from another municipality whenever he or she determined it was needed to protect the requesting municipality’s safety or well-being. The CEO of the municipality receiving the request, or its police chief or board of police commissioners (or other CEO-approved duly constituted authority), could, regardless of any state or local law, reassign as many of its municipal police officers to the requester’s commanding officer as he or she deemed consistent with the municipality’s safety and well-being. Unless waived in writing by the CEO of the municipality supplying assistance, the requesting municipality had to reimburse the

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other for all expenditures incurred, including payments for death, disability, or injury of employees and losses or damages to supplies or equipment incurred in providing the assistance.

The act instead allows a municipality's police chief, or the chief's designee, to request police assistance from another municipality for a period up to 24 hours when needed to respond to an emergency situation. The police chief of the municipality receiving the request, or the chief's designee, may, regardless of any state or local law or prior assistance agreement, reassign as many of its municipal police officers to the requester's commanding officer as he or she deems consistent with the municipality's safety and well-being. This police chief or his or her designee must notify the municipality's CEO about the request received and any assistance provided.

Unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the two police chiefs or their designees, the act requires that the municipality supplying the assistance bear the costs for all expenditures incurred in doing so (e.g., payments for death, disability, or injury of employees and losses or damages to supplies or equipment).