



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 5399***

LCO No. 1835



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established a  
2 Sexual Assault Criminal Justice Response, Enhancement and Model  
3 Policy Advisory Council for the purpose of evaluating the current  
4 criminal justice response to sexual assault in the state and establishing a  
5 model policy for the criminal justice response to sexual assault. In  
6 developing such model policy, the council shall conduct such  
7 examinations as the council deems appropriate, including, but not  
8 limited to, evaluating the:

9 (1) Policies and procedures used by law enforcement agencies when  
10 responding to incidents of sexual assault;

11 (2) Accuracy of data collected by the Department of Emergency  
12 Services and Public Protection and the Court Support Services Division  
13 of the Judicial Branch, and collecting and analyzing any additional data  
14 related to sexual assault and the criminal justice response available from  
15 Judicial Branch court operations, state's attorneys, public defenders,

16 sexual assault victim advocates or operators of programs for sexual  
17 assault offenders;

18 (3) Risk assessments used throughout a sexual assault case from  
19 arrest through adjudication;

20 (4) Arrest, prosecution, penalties and monitoring for violations of  
21 family violence restraining orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15 of  
22 the general statutes, or criminal protective orders issued pursuant to  
23 section 46b-38c, 54-1k or 54-82r of the general statutes, that relate to a  
24 sexual assault;

25 (5) Programming offered to individuals who have been convicted of  
26 a sexual assault crime and are currently incarcerated with the  
27 Department of Correction; and

28 (6) Training and education for criminal justice stakeholders.

29 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

30 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

31 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

32 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
33 Representatives, who shall be a municipal police officer with experience  
34 in training related to sexual assaults;

35 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
36 a representative of a community-based organization that provides  
37 group counseling or treatment to persons who have committed acts of  
38 sexual assault;

39 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
40 Representatives;

41 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

42 (7) One appointed by the Governor;

43 (8) The chairperson of the Police Officer Standards and Training  
44 Council, or the chairperson's designee;

45 (9) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's  
46 designee;

47 (10) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's  
48 designee;

49 (11) The Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's designee;

50 (12) Two appointed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and  
51 Public Protection, one of whom shall be a representative of the Division  
52 of State Police with experience in training related to sexual assault, and  
53 one of whom shall be a commanding officer in the Division of State  
54 Police;

55 (13) Four appointed by the Chief Court Administrator, one of whom  
56 shall be a judge of the Superior Court assigned to hear criminal matters,  
57 one of whom shall be a family relations counselor or supervisor within  
58 the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, one of whom  
59 shall be an administrator within the Court Support Services Division of  
60 the Judicial Branch and one of whom shall be an administrator of the  
61 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Branch;

62 (14) Four appointed by the chief executive officer of the Connecticut  
63 Alliance to End Sexual Violence, one of whom shall be a victim of sexual  
64 assault, one of whom shall be a victim advocate with courtroom  
65 experience in sexual assault matters, one of whom shall be an executive  
66 director of a community-based organization that provides direct  
67 services to persons impacted by sexual assault and one of whom shall  
68 be a representative of the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence;

69 (15) One representative from an association of police chiefs in  
70 Connecticut, appointed by the president of such association;

71 (16) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
72 secretary's designee;

73 (17) The chairperson of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, or the  
74 chairperson's designee;

75 (18) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
76 or the commissioner's designee; and

77 (19) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's  
78 designee.

79 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (1), (2),  
80 (6) or (7) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General  
81 Assembly.

82 (d) All members of said council shall be appointed on or before  
83 October 1, 2024, and quadrennially thereafter, to serve for a term of four  
84 years. Any member may be reappointed, and any member may continue  
85 to serve until such member's successor is appointed and qualified. Any  
86 vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

87 (e) The members of the council shall select two chairpersons of the  
88 council from among the members of the council. Said chairpersons shall  
89 be responsible for scheduling the meetings of the council.

90 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
91 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
92 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

93 (g) The council shall develop the initial model policy for the criminal  
94 justice response to sexual assault described in subsection (a) of this  
95 section not later than July 1, 2025, and shall update such policy annually  
96 thereafter. The council shall submit such initial policy to the chairperson  
97 of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council for distribution as  
98 provided in subsection (h) of this section not later than July 1, 2025, and  
99 shall submit any updates to such policy annually thereafter.

100 (h) Not later than August 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the  
101 chairperson of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall  
102 distribute to each law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-194b of

103 the general statutes, the initial model policy for the criminal justice  
104 response to sexual assault and notice of any updates to such model  
105 policy received by the chairperson in the preceding calendar year  
106 pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

107 (i) Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council  
108 shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
109 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
110 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and public safety  
111 and security. The report shall include any recommendations for  
112 statutory or policy changes within the purview of the council, including  
113 any updates or amendments to the model policy for the criminal justice  
114 response to sexual assault for the state and any recommendations  
115 related to programs for sexual assault offenders.

116 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) It shall be the responsibility  
117 of the peace officer at the scene of a sexual assault incident to provide  
118 immediate assistance to the victim. Such assistance shall include, but  
119 need not be limited to:

120 (1) Assisting the victim to obtain medical treatment if such treatment  
121 is required;

122 (2) Notifying the victim of the right to file an affidavit for a warrant  
123 for arrest;

124 (3) Informing the victim of services available, including providing the  
125 victim with (A) contact information for a regional sexual assault  
126 organization that employs, or provides referrals to, counselors who are  
127 trained in providing trauma-informed care, and (B) a copy of the  
128 information concerning services and resources available to victims of  
129 sexual assault published pursuant to section 10-10g of the general  
130 statutes, as amended by this act;

131 (4) If there is a child at the scene, providing the victim with a copy of  
132 the documents concerning behavioral and mental health evaluation and  
133 treatment resources available to children developed pursuant to section

134 17a-22r of the general statutes for the mental health region in which such  
135 victim is located; and

136 (5) Referring the victim to the Office of Victim Services within the  
137 Judicial Branch.

138 Sec. 3. Section 10-10g of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
139 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
140 *passage*):

141 (a) Not later than December 1, [2022] 2024, and annually thereafter,  
142 the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department, in  
143 consultation with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
144 and the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, shall compile  
145 information concerning services and resources available to victims of  
146 domestic violence and sexual assault and provide such information  
147 electronically to the Department of Education, and electronically and in  
148 hard copies to (1) the Division of State Police within the Department of  
149 Emergency Services and Public Protection, (2) each municipal police  
150 department, and (3) each ambulance company and organization,  
151 whether public, private or voluntary, that offers transportation or  
152 treatment services to patients under emergency conditions. Such  
153 information shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) referrals  
154 available to counseling and supportive services, including, but not  
155 limited to, the Safe at Home program administered by the Office of the  
156 Secretary of the State, sexual assault crisis centers, shelter services,  
157 medical services, domestic abuse and sexual assault hotlines, legal  
158 counseling and advocacy, mental health care and financial assistance,  
159 and (B) procedures to voluntarily and confidentially identify eligibility  
160 for referrals to such counseling and supportive services. Such  
161 information shall be translated into, and provided in, multiple  
162 languages, including, but not limited to, English, Polish, Portuguese and  
163 Spanish.

164 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Department of Education shall  
165 publish the information compiled and provided pursuant to subsection

166 (a) of this section on the Internet web site of the department. If informed  
167 of any necessary revisions by the Office of Victim Services within the  
168 Judicial Department, the Department of Education shall revise such  
169 published information.

170 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school year  
171 thereafter, the Department of Education shall disseminate the  
172 information published pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to each  
173 local and regional board of education. Each local and regional board of  
174 education shall require the provision of such information to any (1)  
175 student or parent or guardian of a student who expresses to a school  
176 employee, as defined in section 10-222d, that such student or parent or  
177 guardian or a person residing with such student or parent or guardian  
178 does not feel safe at home due to domestic violence or sexual assault,  
179 and (2) parent or guardian of a student who authorizes the transfer of  
180 such student's education records to another school.

181 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-10g of the 2024 supplement to the  
182 general statutes, as amended by section 56 of public act 23-167, is  
183 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
184 *2025*):

185 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school year  
186 thereafter, the Department of Education shall disseminate the  
187 information published pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to each  
188 local and regional board of education. Each local and regional board of  
189 education shall require the provision of such information to any (1)  
190 student or parent or guardian of a student who expresses to a school  
191 employee, as defined in section 10-222aa, that such student or parent or  
192 guardian or a person residing with such student or parent or guardian  
193 does not feel safe at home due to domestic violence or sexual assault,  
194 and (2) parent or guardian of a student who authorizes the transfer of  
195 such student's education records to another school.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-10g
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-10g(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) establish a council to develop a model policy related to the criminal justice response to sexual assault and require distribution of such policy to law enforcement units, (2) establish responsibilities of a peace officer at the scene of a sexual assault incident, and (3) require development and distribution of information about services for victims of sexual assault.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*