



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5420

LCO No. 2966



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF AND SERVICES FOR POLICE OFFICERS, CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS REGARDING POLICE TRAINING AND CERTAIN REPORTS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 7-291d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) (1) No law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, shall
5 discharge, discipline, discriminate against or otherwise penalize a police
6 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who is employed by such law
7 enforcement unit solely because the police officer (A) seeks or receives
8 mental health care services, [or] including such services as a result of a
9 behavioral health assessment conducted pursuant to section 7-291e, or
10 (B) surrenders his or her firearm, ammunition or electronic defense
11 weapon used in the performance of the police officer's official duties to
12 such law enforcement unit during the time the police officer receives
13 mental health care services.

14 (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to a police

15 officer who [(1)] (A) seeks or receives mental health care services to
16 avoid disciplinary action by such law enforcement unit, or [(2)] (B)
17 refuses to submit himself or herself to an examination as provided in
18 subsection (b) of this section.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2023,
20 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall (1) after
21 consultation with persons with mental or physical disabilities and
22 advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum for
23 police officers regarding interactions with persons who have mental or
24 physical disabilities, and (2) after consultation with persons who are
25 deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind and advocates on behalf of such
26 persons, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding
27 interactions with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.

28 (b) On and after October 1, 2023, each police basic or review training
29 program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and
30 Training Council, the Division of State Police within the Department of
31 Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal police
32 department shall include the training curriculum developed pursuant
33 to subsection (a) of this section.

34 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of one hundred thousand
35 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and
36 Addiction Services from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending
37 June 30, 2023, for the purpose of providing grants to nonprofit
38 organizations to provide crisis intervention training for police officers,
39 as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

40 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
41 study the mental health needs of law enforcement officers. The task
42 force shall (1) examine the mental health needs of law enforcement
43 officers, (2) list the programs that serve or could be available to serve the
44 mental health needs of officers, (3) identify barriers to accessing such
45 programs, such as issues regarding confidentiality and disclosure of
46 information regarding treatment, and (4) make recommendations for

47 policies, practices and legislation to address the mental health needs of
48 officers, encourage officers to access programs and eliminate barriers to
49 accessing programs.

50 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

51 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
52 who shall be a representative of the Honor Wellness Center or a
53 nonprofit organization providing mental health treatment for police
54 officers;

55 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
56 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law
57 Enforcement or a nonprofit organization that provides training to police
58 officers on mental health issues;

59 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
60 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut State
61 Police Union;

62 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
63 a police officer from a municipal police department;

64 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
65 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Police Officers
66 Association of Connecticut;

67 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
68 a police officer from a municipal police department;

69 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
70 or the commissioner's designee;

71 (8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
72 the commissioner's designee;

73 (9) The chairperson of the Police Officer Standards and Training
74 Council, or the chairperson's designee; and

75 (10) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a municipal police
76 chief representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

77 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
78 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
79 of the General Assembly.

80 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
81 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
82 be filled by the appointing authority.

83 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
84 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
85 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
86 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
87 days after the effective date of this section.

88 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
89 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
90 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

91 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report,
92 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
93 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
94 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
95 safety and security. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
96 submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

97 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the
98 Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of
99 Connecticut, in consultation with the United Way of Connecticut, shall
100 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
101 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
102 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and
103 security. Such report shall include a study of a representative sample of
104 9-1-1 dispatch call data and an analysis of the percentage of such calls
105 that would be more appropriately directed to the 2-1-1 Infoline program

106 operated by the United Way of Connecticut.

107 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Police
108 Officer Standards and Training Council, established pursuant to section
109 7-294b of the general statutes, shall submit a report, in accordance with
110 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
111 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
112 matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall:

113 (1) (A) Provide the implementation status of the interactive electronic
114 computer platform described in subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of
115 section 7-294d of the general statutes, and (B) describe any criteria used
116 by the council to determine when it is appropriate to allow officers to
117 complete certified review training using such platform;

118 (2) Determine whether any other training required of police officers
119 after initial certification may be conducted through such an electronic
120 computer platform or through any other on-line or remote format
121 without compromising the quality of such training; and

122 (3) Make recommendations for any legislation necessary to
123 implement the council's findings.

124 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the
125 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall submit a
126 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
127 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
128 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such
129 report shall include an examination of the Community and Law
130 Enforcement for Addiction Recovery project, including an analysis of
131 whether such project has been successful in achieving its goals, and
132 recommendations as to improvements to such project and whether it
133 should be expanded throughout the state.

134 Sec. 8. Section 7-294r of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
135 *October 1, 2023*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-291d(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) prohibit discipline of a police officer solely due to receipt of services as a result of a behavioral health assessment; (2) require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop training curriculum for police officer interactions with persons who have mental or physical disabilities, and persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind; (3) appropriate money for crisis intervention training for police officers; (4) establish a task force to study the mental health needs of law enforcement officers; (5) require a study to determine the percentage of 9-1-1 dispatch calls that would be more appropriately directed to the 2-1-1 Infoline; (6) require a report on the use of online or remote technology by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council for police officer training after initial certification; and (7) require a report on the Community and Law Enforcement for Addiction Recovery project.

[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.]