



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 122

January Session, 2021



AN ACT ESTABLISHING A UNIT WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE TO INVESTIGATE HATE CRIMES AND CRIMINAL ACTS COMMITTED BY EXTREMIST GROUPS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2021*):

4 (d) The commissioner shall establish such divisions as the
5 commissioner deems necessary for effective operation of the state police
6 force and consistent with budgetary allotments, a Criminal Intelligence
7 Division, a Hate Crimes and Extremist Group Investigative Unit and a
8 state-wide organized crime investigative task force to be engaged
9 throughout the state for the purpose of preventing and detecting any
10 violation of the criminal law. The head of the Criminal Intelligence
11 Division shall be of the rank of sergeant or above. The head of the Hate
12 Crimes and Extremist Group Investigative Unit shall be the rank of
13 sergeant or above and shall serve, or appoint a designee to serve, as a
14 liaison to the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, established
15 under section 51-279f. The head of the state-wide organized crime
16 investigative task force shall be a police officer.

17 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) For the purposes of this

18 section, (1) "extremist" means an individual encouraging, condoning,
19 justifying or supporting the commission or attempted commission of a
20 violent crime, or a crime that is intended to cause physical harm to
21 another person or property damage, to achieve a political, ideological,
22 religious, social or economic goal, (2) "extremist group" means a group
23 of extremists associated in fact but not a legal entity, and (3) "law
24 enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a
25 of the general statutes.

26 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
27 shall assign to the Hate Crimes and Extremist Group Investigative Unit,
28 established under subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes,
29 as amended by this act, such personnel as may be required to fulfill the
30 duties of this section. The unit shall:

31 (1) Prevent, investigate, detect and assist any law enforcement unit
32 with the investigation of (A) any alleged crime that is a violation of
33 section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l of the general statutes, (B) any
34 other alleged crime that may be motivated by bigotry or bias as a result
35 of the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual
36 orientation or gender identity or expression of another person, and (C)
37 any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity by an extremist or
38 extremist group; and

39 (2) Compile, maintain and analyze data regarding (A) crimes that are
40 violations of section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l of the general
41 statutes, (B) any other crime that may be motivated by bigotry or bias as
42 a result of the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex,
43 sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of another person,
44 and (C) any criminal activity by an extremist or extremist group.

45 (c) Not later than October 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the unit
46 shall publish a report on the department's Internet web site regarding
47 the data compiled pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision
48 (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

49 Sec. 3. Section 29-7m of the general statutes is repealed and the
50 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

51 (a) [On and after July 1, 1988, the] The Hate Crimes and Extremist
52 Group Investigative Unit of the Division of State Police within the
53 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall monitor,
54 record and classify all crimes committed in the state which are
55 motivated by bigotry or bias.

56 [(b) The police department, resident state trooper or constable who
57 performs law enforcement duties for each town shall monitor, record
58 and classify all crimes committed within such town which are violations
59 of section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l and report such information to
60 the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
61 Services and Public Protection.]

62 (b) Any law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, shall submit
63 a report to the Hate Crimes and Extremist Group Investigative Unit, not
64 later than fourteen days after receiving notification, information or a
65 complaint of (1) any alleged crime that is a violation of section 53a-181j,
66 53a-181k or 53a-181l, (2) any other alleged crime that may be motivated
67 by bigotry or bias as a result of the actual or perceived race, religion,
68 ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or
69 expression of another person, and (3) any suspected criminal activity by
70 an extremist or extremist group, as such terms are defined in subsection
71 (a) of section 2 of this act.

72 (c) Not later than January 1, 2022, and biannually thereafter, the
73 Police Officer Standards and Training Council, in consultation with the
74 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall (1)
75 develop and promulgate a standardized form to be used by a law
76 enforcement unit to submit a report pursuant to subsection (b) of this
77 section, (2) develop best practices to facilitate the sharing of information
78 among and between the Hate Crimes and Extremist Group Investigative
79 Unit and law enforcements units, and (3) take such actions, as the
80 council and commissioner deem appropriate, to inform the public of its

81 right to report any alleged crime or suspected criminal activity as
82 described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this
83 section and how to make such reports.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	29-4(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	29-7m

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(b), "fulfill the duties of this section. The unit shall" was added for clarity.

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*