



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 135

LCO No. 1050



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-294ee of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) [Until December 31, 2024, the] The Police Officer Standards and
4 Training Council, established under section 7-294b, and the
5 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection or the
6 commissioner's designee, shall jointly develop, adopt and revise, as
7 necessary, minimum standards and practices for the administration,
8 [and] management and operation of law enforcement units, as defined
9 in section 7-294a. Such minimum standards and practices shall be based
10 upon standards established by the International Association of Chiefs of
11 Police and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement
12 Agencies, Inc., and shall include, but need not be limited to, standards
13 and practices regarding bias-based policing, use of force, response to
14 crimes of family violence, use of body-worn recording equipment,
15 complaints that allege misconduct by police officers, use of electronic

16 defense weapons, eyewitness identification procedures, notifications in
17 death and related events and pursuits by police officers and compliance
18 with the guidance issued by the council pursuant to subdivision (1) of
19 subsection (g) of section 7-294d regarding reporting procedures to be
20 followed by chief law enforcement officers for certificate suspension,
21 cancellation or revocation. Not later than January 1, 2023, the council
22 shall, within available appropriations, divide the minimum standards
23 and practices into three state-accreditation tiers, to be known as tier one,
24 tier two and tier three. Tier one shall consist of minimum standards and
25 practices designed to protect law enforcement units from liability,
26 enhance the delivery of services and improve public confidence in law
27 enforcement units. Tier two shall consist of minimum standards and
28 practices for the administration, management and operation of law
29 enforcement units. Tier three shall consist of higher minimum standards
30 and practices for the administration, management and operation of law
31 enforcement units. The council shall post [such] the minimum standards
32 and practices of each tier on the council's Internet web site and
33 disseminate [such] the minimum standards and practices of each tier to
34 law enforcement units. The council and commissioner or the
35 commissioner's designee shall jointly develop a process to review a law
36 enforcement unit's compliance with [such] the minimum standards and
37 practices of each tier and issue a certificate of compliance with [law
38 enforcement] the minimum standards and practices of tier one, tier two
39 or tier three, as the case may be, to a law enforcement unit that meets or
40 exceeds [such] the minimum standards and practices of such tier.

41 (b) On and after January 1, 2019, and until December 31, [2024] 2022,
42 each law enforcement unit shall adopt and maintain (1) the minimum
43 standards and practices developed by the council pursuant to
44 subsection (a) of this section, or (2) a higher level of accreditation
45 standards developed by the council or the Commission on Accreditation
46 for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

47 (c) On and after January 1, 2023, and until December 31, 2023, each
48 law enforcement unit shall meet (1) the requirements for state-
49 accreditation tier one developed by the council pursuant to subsection

50 (a) of this section, or (2) a higher level of accreditation standards
51 developed by the council or the Commission on Accreditation for Law
52 Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

53 (d) On and after January 1, 2024, and until December 31, 2025, each
54 law enforcement unit shall meet (1) the requirements for state-
55 accreditation tiers one and two developed by the council pursuant to
56 subsection (a) of this section, or (2) a higher level of accreditation
57 standards developed by the council or the Commission on Accreditation
58 for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

59 ~~[(c)]~~ (e) On and after January 1, [2025] 2026, each law enforcement
60 unit shall [obtain and maintain accreditation] meet (1) the requirements
61 for state-accreditation tiers one, two and three developed by the council
62 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) a higher level of
63 accreditation standards developed by the Commission on Accreditation
64 for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

65 (f) If a law enforcement unit fails to obtain or maintain [such
66 accreditation] the appropriate state-accreditation tier or tiers or the
67 higher level of accreditation standards developed by the Commission
68 on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., as required by the
69 provisions of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section, the council
70 shall work with the law enforcement unit to obtain and maintain such
71 state-accreditation tier or tiers or accreditation standards.

72 (g) If a law enforcement unit fails to comply with the guidance issued
73 by the council pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 7-
74 294d regarding reporting procedures to be followed by chief law
75 enforcement officers for certificate suspension, cancellation or
76 revocation, the council may revoke the certificate of compliance with the
77 appropriate state-accreditation tier or tiers, as the case may be, issued
78 pursuant to this section.

79 ~~[(d)]~~ (h) No civil action may be brought against a law enforcement
80 unit for damages arising from the failure of the law enforcement unit to
81 (1) adopt and maintain such minimum standards and practices or a

82 higher level of accreditation standards pursuant to subsection (b) of this
 83 section, or (2) obtain and maintain the appropriate state-accreditation
 84 tier or tiers or accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for
 85 Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., [pursuant to subsection (c) of this
 86 section] as required by subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

87 Sec. 2. Subdivision (22) of subsection (a) of section 7-294d of the 2022
 88 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
 89 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

90 (22) (A) [Until December 31, 2024, to] To develop, adopt and revise,
 91 as necessary, comprehensive accreditation standards, and designation
 92 of such standards as state-accreditation tiers one, two and three, for the
 93 administration and management of law enforcement units, to grant
 94 accreditation to those law enforcement units that demonstrate their
 95 compliance with such standards and, at the request and expense of any
 96 law enforcement unit, to conduct such surveys as may be necessary to
 97 determine such unit's compliance with such standards; and (B) on and
 98 after January 1, [2025,] 2023 to work with any law enforcement unit that
 99 has failed to obtain or maintain accreditation [from] at the appropriate
 100 tier or tiers or a higher level of accreditation standards developed by the
 101 council or the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement
 102 Agencies, Inc., pursuant to section 7-294ee, as amended by this act;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-294ee
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	7-294d(a)(22)

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the requirements regarding the accreditation of law enforcement units.

[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.]