



Substitute Senate Bill No. 135

Public Act No. 22-119

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS.

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

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 Section 7-294ee of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) [Until December 31, 2024, the] The Police Officer Standards and Training Council, established under section 7-294b, and the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection or the commissioner's designee, shall jointly develop, adopt and revise, as necessary, minimum standards and practices for the administration, [and] management and operation of law enforcement units, as defined in section 7-294a. Such minimum standards and practices shall be based upon standards established by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., and shall include, but need not be limited to, standards and practices regarding bias-based policing, use of force, response to crimes of family violence, use of body-worn recording equipment, complaints that allege misconduct by police officers, use of electronic defense weapons, eyewitness identification procedures, notifications in death and related events and pursuits by police officers and compliance with the guidance issued by the council pursuant to subdivision (1) of

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subsection (g) of section 7-294d regarding reporting procedures to be followed by chief law enforcement officers for certificate suspension, cancellation or revocation. Not later than January 1, 2023, the council shall, within available appropriations, divide the minimum standards and practices into three state-accreditation tiers, to be known as tier one, tier two and tier three. Tier one shall consist of minimum standards and practices designed to protect law enforcement units from liability, enhance the delivery of services and improve public confidence in law enforcement units. Tier two shall consist of minimum standards and practices for the administration, management and operation of law enforcement units. Tier three shall consist of higher minimum standards and practices for the administration, management and operation of law enforcement units. The council shall post [such] the minimum standards and practices of each tier on the council's Internet web site and disseminate [such] the minimum standards and practices of each tier to law enforcement units. The council and commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall jointly develop a process to review a law enforcement unit's compliance with [such] the minimum standards and practices of each tier and issue a certificate of compliance with [law enforcement] the minimum standards and practices of tier one, tier two or tier three, as the case may be, to a law enforcement unit that meets or exceeds [such] the minimum standards and practices of such tier.

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

(c) On and after January 1, 2023, and until December 31, 2023, each law enforcement unit shall (1) be certified, at a minimum, as meeting the requirements for state-accreditation tier one developed by the council

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pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) meet a higher level of accreditation standards developed by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

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

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

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

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

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[(d)] (h) No civil action may be brought against a law enforcement unit for damages arising from the failure of the law enforcement unit to (1) adopt and maintain such minimum standards and practices or a higher level of accreditation standards pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or (2) obtain and maintain the appropriate certificate of compliance with the appropriate state-accreditation tier or tiers or accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., [pursuant to subsection (c) of this section] as required by subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

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

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