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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 120

#### ***AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO WEAR RELIGIOUS HEAD COVERINGS AS PART OF A POLICE UNIFORM.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires law enforcement units to allow their police officers, while on duty, to wear religious head coverings that correspond to the officers' religious beliefs, except where the units require their officers to use tight-fitting protective headgear.

Specifically, the bill requires each unit, by October 1, 2021, to adopt or amend a policy to (1) establish standards for the personal appearance of its officers while they are on duty and wearing a uniform or other authorized attire and (2) allow the religious head coverings as provided above.

By law and under the bill, a "law enforcement unit" is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime. "Police officers" are sworn members of an organized local police department or the State Police; appointed constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties; special police officers appointed under law (e.g., those appointed to investigate public assistance fraud); or any members of a law enforcement unit who perform police duties (CGS § 7-294a).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 2 (03/18/2021)