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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 1009**

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop, by January 1, 2022, a model policy on the use of social media by law enforcement units and police officers while they are on duty. The policy must include:

1. guidelines on using a unit's social media account,
2. the responsibilities of any unit employee who manages and approves content to post on a unit's account,
3. procedures when the unauthorized use of a unit's account is detected,
4. guidelines to ensure compliance with applicable state or federal law,
5. guidelines on what is and is not suitable for posting on a unit's account, and
6. methods to limit indecent or obscene content on a unit's account.

By July 1, 2022, the bill requires each law enforcement unit to adopt and maintain a written policy that meets or exceeds the model policy's standards.

By law and under the bill, "social media" is an electronic medium where users may create and view user-generated content, such as uploaded or downloaded videos or photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, or instant messages (CGS § 9-601). Additionally, "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. Lastly, “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 Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 11 (03/18/2021)