



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 275

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 120

Senate, April 6, 2021

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. BRADLEY of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section, "law
2 enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the same meanings as
3 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes. Not later than October
4 1, 2021, each law enforcement unit shall adopt or amend a policy to
5 establish standards regarding the personal appearance of any police
6 officer employed by such law enforcement unit while the police officer
7 is on duty and wearing a uniform or other authorized attire. The policy
8 shall permit a police officer to wear a religious head covering in
9 accordance with the police officer's religious beliefs while on duty,
10 except where the use of tight-fitting protective headgear is required by
11 such law enforcement unit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, the first sentence was added for clarity.

PS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill allows police officers to wear religious head coverings as part of a police uniform resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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)