

**Public Safety and Security Committee  
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** SB-1009

AN ACT REQUIRING SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES FOR POLICE

**Title:** DEPARTMENTS.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/9/2021

**File No.:**

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**SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Safety and Security Committee

**REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill will require Police Officer Standards and Training Council develop a social media model or one that has higher standards. Given the position of the police in our society, it is important that their social media presence be absent of racist or any derogatory comments. It also will ensure that officers are not posting on social media during work hours.

**Substitute Language**

DELETION of Section 1 (a) 7. A prohibition on the personal use of social media by a police officer while on duty.

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Expressed

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Senator Bob Duff, State of Connecticut**

Senator Duff supports this bill. Teachers and school staff in Norwalk and many other communities have social media policies, as do some police departments. Police officers are in a position of power and they represent the towns and cities they serve on and off duty. When a person carries a badge and carries a gun, they cannot be entrusted to fairly enforce the law if they are posting racist or prejudiced thoughts online. When you are a police officer you cannot promote speech that makes residents question your objectivity and fairness.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk**

**Date: 3/29/2021**