



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6535**

January Session, 2021



**AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO SCHOOL SECURITY.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study the employment and role of school resource officers in public  
3 schools and to develop recommendations regarding whether school  
4 resource officers should continue to be employed or assigned in public  
5 schools, and, if so, what their duties and role should be within the  
6 schools and community in which they are assigned. For purposes of this  
7 section, "school resource officer" has the same meaning as provided in  
8 section 10-233m of the general statutes.

9 (b) The task force shall examine:

10 (1) Each memorandum of understanding entered into between a local  
11 and regional board of education and the local law enforcement agency,  
12 pursuant to section 10-233m of the general statutes, that outlines the role  
13 and responsibility of school resource officers assigned to schools under  
14 the jurisdiction of such board;

15 (2) The number and nature of instances of student discipline in which  
16 a school resource officer was involved, and whether such instances  
17 resulted in a student suspension, expulsion or school-based arrest, as  
18 defined in section 10-233n of the general statutes;

19 (3) The degree of involvement in and relationship of the school  
20 resource officer with the school community for which such school  
21 resource officer is assigned beyond interactions involving student  
22 discipline and school-based arrests;

23 (4) The amount of time a school resource officer is on school grounds  
24 in his or her official capacity as a school resource officer;

25 (5) Whether the school resource officer is an employee of the local or  
26 regional board of education or the local law enforcement agency;

27 (6) The cost, if any, to the local or regional board of education for  
28 employing a school resource officer or assigning a school resource  
29 officer pursuant to an agreement with a local law enforcement agency;

30 (7) The amount, frequency and nature of any training relating to  
31 serving as a school resource officer that a school resource officer receives  
32 prior to and while serving as a school resource officer;

33 (8) The grade levels to which a school resource officer is assigned; and

34 (9) Whether, on a state-wide, district and individual school level, a  
35 correlation exists between a school's climate for student success and the  
36 relationship established between local and regional boards of education  
37 and school resource officers as outlined in the memorandum of  
38 understanding described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, and the  
39 factors described in subdivisions (2) to (8), inclusive, of this subsection.

40 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

41 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
42 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of  
43 Boards of Education, one of whom is a school resource officer and one  
44 of whom is the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a school in  
45 which a school resource officer is assigned or employed;

46 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one

47 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public  
48 School Superintendents, one of whom is a school resource officer and  
49 one of whom is the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a school  
50 in which a school resource officer is assigned or employed;

51 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
52 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of Special Education  
53 Equity for Kids of Connecticut and one of whom is a representative of  
54 the Connecticut Education Association;

55 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
56 is a representative of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight  
57 Committee, established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general  
58 statutes, and one of whom is a representative of the American  
59 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

60 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
61 Representatives, one of whom is a school resource officer and one of  
62 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School  
63 Administrators;

64 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
65 is a school resource officer and one of whom is a member of the  
66 Connecticut Association of Schools;

67 (7) Two appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican  
68 Caucus of the General Assembly;

69 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

70 (9) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
71 or the commissioner's designee; and

72 (10) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee.

73 (d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
74 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member

75 of the General Assembly.

76 (e) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
77 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
78 be filled by the appointing authority.

79 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
80 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
81 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
82 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
83 days after the effective date of this section.

84 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
85 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
86 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

87 (h) Not later than July 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report on  
88 its findings and any recommendations for revisions to the laws  
89 governing the use of school resource officers in schools to the joint  
90 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
91 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
92 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on  
93 the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2022, whichever is later.

94 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The School Safety Infrastructure  
95 Council, established pursuant to section 10-292r of the general statutes,  
96 shall conduct a study to determine whether classroom doors that can be  
97 locked from the inside and outside of the classroom should be included  
98 in school safety infrastructure criteria, developed pursuant to  
99 subsection (b) of section 10-292r of the general statutes. Not later than  
100 January 1, 2022, the council shall submit a report on its findings and  
101 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
102 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in  
103 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

104 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than January 1, 2023,  
105 the Department of Education and Department of Emergency Services

106 and Public Protection shall jointly develop a state-wide plan for  
107 responding to large-scale school crisis events. Such plan shall include,  
108 but need not be limited to, cooperation with other education and  
109 behavioral health agencies, provisions specifying short and long-term  
110 interventions for different student populations and identifying funding  
111 mechanisms that will minimize discontinuity of services. The  
112 department shall submit such plan to the joint standing committees of  
113 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
114 education and public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section  
115 11-4a of the general statutes.

116 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-222m of the general statutes is  
117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
118 *2021*):

119 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall annually submit  
120 the school security and safety plan for each school under the jurisdiction  
121 of such board, developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to  
122 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. For the  
123 school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year thereafter,  
124 the department shall conduct random audits, including unannounced  
125 site visits to schools, to ensure that the school security and safety plans  
126 are being developed and submitted in accordance with the provisions  
127 of this section and being implemented in accordance with the provisions  
128 of such plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-222m(c)

**ED**                      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*                                      APP