

Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-258

AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE PATROL VEHICLES THAT REQUIRE
DASHBOARD CAMERAS AND THE ACQUISITION OF A MINE-RESISTANT,

Title: AMBUSH-PROTECTED VEHICLE.

Vote Date: 3/15/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2022

File No.: 120

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

Co-Sponsors

Rep. Charles F. Ferraro, 117th Dist.

Rep. Maria P. Horn, 64th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will clarify what is meant by a police patrol vehicle that would require a dashboard camera. It would ensure that only vehicles required to have dashboard cameras are equipped with them. It would also allow the town of West Haven to purchase from the town of Farmington by January 1, 2023, a decommissioned mine-resistant, ambush protected vehicle (MRAP) through the 1033 program, this allows a local law enforcement agency to purchase surplus military equipment. The town of West Haven is often subject to extreme weather such as Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene and snowstorm Nemo. The purchase of this vehicle would be an asset in protecting the community.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Charles J. Ferraro, House of Representatives, State of Connecticut

Being a shoreline community West Haven would benefit from the vehicle they would like to purchase from Farmington. The vehicle is for lifesaving measures. Having in the vehicle

would be a huge asset. In April 2021 there was a shootout with active shooter and police. There was constant gunfire, a civilian was wounded, police were pinned down and people were terrified. A vehicle like the MRAP mentioned in this bill would have served as a shield for the police.

Senator James Maroney, Senate, State of Connecticut

The Farmington P.D. are in possession of a decommissioned MRAP vehicle (controlled equipment) West Haven would like to purchase this vehicle, but under the police accountability bill, departments can no longer procure this type of controlled equipment. West Haven being a shoreline community would benefit from this vehicle. The police and fire department seek to purchase this vehicle for rescue purposes in the event of flooding events or other natural disasters or extreme weather. Sen. Maroney would like this bill to allow for other future requests to purchase controlled equipment that was already in possession at the time of the passage of Police Accountability Bill.

Mike Muszynski, State and Federal Relations Manager for CCM

CCM supports this bill as it would clarify what police vehicles are required to be equipped with dashboard cameras. Current law is unclear whether administrative vehicles are required to have a dashboard camera if an occupant is wearing a body-worn camera, a bicycle, a motor scooter, an ATV, an electric personal assistive device or an animal control officer is required to have these cameras.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Charles DellaRocco, State Animal Control Officer

Animal Control Officers (ACO) can often be involved in situations that can escalate into more serious situations, not all calls are just answering barking dog complaints. The Police Accountability Act should not be watered down to not include ACO's. ACO's should be given the tools, the training and equipment that is necessary to accomplish the mission with compassion for the people they serve and the animals that are being protected.

Jess Zaccagnino, policy counsel, American Civil Liberties Union, CT

The ACLU-CT believes that highly militarized policing should be defunded in favor of investing those funds into the programs, resources, and services that truly create stable, healthy and safe communities. ACLU-CT opposes legislation that facilitates the possession of military equipment by police departments such as the MRAP.

David Godbout

Opposes all bills brought to the CGA this session, as he feels it is a violation of his fourth amendment right.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk

Date: 3/30/2022