

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-95—SB 258 (VETOED)

Public Safety and Security Committee

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

SUMMARY: Under existing law, beginning July 1, 2022, each state and local law enforcement unit must require the use of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder in each police patrol vehicle used by any of the police officers it employs (see BACKGROUND) (CGS § 29-6d(c)). This act would have modified the existing definition of “police patrol vehicle” to explicitly exclude the following types of vehicles: (1) administrative vehicles with a body camera-wearing occupant, (2) bicycles, (3) motor scooters, (4) all-terrain vehicles, (5) electric personal assistive mobility devices, and (6) animal control vehicles. It would have further excluded nonmotorized watercraft from the definition.

Existing law also prohibits law enforcement agencies (i.e., State Police and municipal police departments) from acquiring certain military equipment (i.e., controlled equipment), including mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles (CGS § 7-294jj). Regardless of this law, the act would have allowed the West Haven municipal police department to acquire, by January 1, 2023, one mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle from the Farmington municipal police department. The act specified that the West Haven municipal police department would have otherwise been subject to existing law for controlled equipment (e.g., law enforcement agencies that may keep controlled equipment may not use it for crowd management or intimidation tactics).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision explicitly excluding certain vehicles from the “police patrol vehicle” definition would have been effective July 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND

Definitions

By law, 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. A “police officer” is a sworn member of a law enforcement unit or any member of that unit who performs police duties. A “dashboard camera with a remote recorder” is a camera that (1) attaches to a dashboard or windshield of a police vehicle, (2) electronically records video of the view through the vehicle’s windshield, and (3) has an electronic audio recorder that may be operated remotely (CGS § 29-6d(a)).