



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

**Raised Bill No. 5420**

LCO No. 2966



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF AND SERVICES FOR POLICE OFFICERS, CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS REGARDING POLICE TRAINING AND CERTAIN REPORTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 7-291d of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (a) (1) No law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, shall  
5 discharge, discipline, discriminate against or otherwise penalize a police  
6 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who is employed by such law  
7 enforcement unit solely because the police officer (A) seeks or receives  
8 mental health care services, [or] including such services as a result of a  
9 behavioral health assessment conducted pursuant to section 7-291e, or  
10 (B) surrenders his or her firearm, ammunition or electronic defense  
11 weapon used in the performance of the police officer's official duties to  
12 such law enforcement unit during the time the police officer receives  
13 mental health care services.

14 (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to a police

15 officer who [(1)] (A) seeks or receives mental health care services to  
16 avoid disciplinary action by such law enforcement unit, or [(2)] (B)  
17 refuses to submit himself or herself to an examination as provided in  
18 subsection (b) of this section.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2023,  
20 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall (1) after  
21 consultation with persons with mental or physical disabilities and  
22 advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum for  
23 police officers regarding interactions with persons who have mental or  
24 physical disabilities, and (2) after consultation with persons who are  
25 deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind and advocates on behalf of such  
26 persons, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding  
27 interactions with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.

28 (b) On and after October 1, 2023, each police basic or review training  
29 program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and  
30 Training Council, the Division of State Police within the Department of  
31 Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal police  
32 department shall include the training curriculum developed pursuant  
33 to subsection (a) of this section.

34 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of one hundred thousand  
35 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and  
36 Addiction Services from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending  
37 June 30, 2023, for the purpose of providing grants to nonprofit  
38 organizations to provide crisis intervention training for police officers,  
39 as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

40 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
41 study the mental health needs of law enforcement officers. The task  
42 force shall (1) examine the mental health needs of law enforcement  
43 officers, (2) list the programs that serve or could be available to serve the  
44 mental health needs of officers, (3) identify barriers to accessing such  
45 programs, such as issues regarding confidentiality and disclosure of  
46 information regarding treatment, and (4) make recommendations for

47 policies, practices and legislation to address the mental health needs of  
48 officers, encourage officers to access programs and eliminate barriers to  
49 accessing programs.

50 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

51 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
52 who shall be a representative of the Honor Wellness Center or a  
53 nonprofit organization providing mental health treatment for police  
54 officers;

55 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
56 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law  
57 Enforcement or a nonprofit organization that provides training to police  
58 officers on mental health issues;

59 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
60 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut State  
61 Police Union;

62 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
63 a police officer from a municipal police department;

64 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
65 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Police Officers  
66 Association of Connecticut;

67 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
68 a police officer from a municipal police department;

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

71 (8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or  
72 the commissioner's designee;

73 (9) The chairperson of the Police Officer Standards and Training  
74 Council, or the chairperson's designee; and

75 (10) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a municipal police  
76 chief representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

77 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
78 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
79 of the General Assembly.

80 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
81 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
82 be filled by the appointing authority.

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

88 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
89 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
90 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

91 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report,  
92 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
93 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
94 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
95 safety and security. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
96 submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

97 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the  
98 Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of  
99 Connecticut, in consultation with the United Way of Connecticut, shall  
100 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
101 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
102 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and  
103 security. Such report shall include a study of a representative sample of  
104 9-1-1 dispatch call data and an analysis of the percentage of such calls  
105 that would be more appropriately directed to the 2-1-1 Infoline program

106 operated by the United Way of Connecticut.

107       Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Police  
108 Officer Standards and Training Council, established pursuant to section  
109 7-294b of the general statutes, shall submit a report, in accordance with  
110 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
111 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
112 matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall:

113       (1) (A) Provide the implementation status of the interactive electronic  
114 computer platform described in subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of  
115 section 7-294d of the general statutes, and (B) describe any criteria used  
116 by the council to determine when it is appropriate to allow officers to  
117 complete certified review training using such platform;

118       (2) Determine whether any other training required of police officers  
119 after initial certification may be conducted through such an electronic  
120 computer platform or through any other on-line or remote format  
121 without compromising the quality of such training; and

122       (3) Make recommendations for any legislation necessary to  
123 implement the council's findings.

124       Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the  
125 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall submit a  
126 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
127 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
128 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
129 report shall include an examination of the Community and Law  
130 Enforcement for Addiction Recovery project, including an analysis of  
131 whether such project has been successful in achieving its goals, and  
132 recommendations as to improvements to such project and whether it  
133 should be expanded throughout the state.

134       Sec. 8. Section 7-294r of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
135 *October 1, 2023*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-291d(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) prohibit discipline of a police officer solely due to receipt of services as a result of a behavioral health assessment; (2) require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop training curriculum for police officer interactions with persons who have mental or physical disabilities, and persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind; (3) appropriate money for crisis intervention training for police officers; (4) establish a task force to study the mental health needs of law enforcement officers; (5) require a study to determine the percentage of 9-1-1 dispatch calls that would be more appropriately directed to the 2-1-1 Infoline; (6) require a report on the use of online or remote technology by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council for police officer training after initial certification; and (7) require a report on the Community and Law Enforcement for Addiction Recovery project.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*