



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5420

February Session, 2022



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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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 a labor organization
61 representing sworn members of the Division of State Police within the
62 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection;

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

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

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

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

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

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

76 (10) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
77 municipal police chief representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs

78 Association and one of whom shall be a representative of a labor
79 organization representing sworn members of municipal police
80 departments.

81 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
82 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
83 of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

101 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the
102 Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of
103 Connecticut, in consultation with the United Way of Connecticut, shall
104 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
105 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
106 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and
107 security. Such report shall include a study of a representative sample of
108 9-1-1 dispatch call data and an analysis of the percentage of such calls

109 that would be more appropriately directed to the 2-1-1 Infoline program
110 operated by the United Way of Connecticut.

111 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Police
112 Officer Standards and Training Council, established pursuant to section
113 7-294b of the general statutes, shall submit a report, in accordance with
114 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
115 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
116 matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall:

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

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

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

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

138 Sec. 8. Section 7-294r of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
139 *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

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*