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## OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6579

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE CRISIS INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE STATE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State Police, in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), to expand the Connection to Recovery through Intervention, Support and Initiating Services Initiative pilot program (i.e., CRISIS Initiative) throughout the state by January 1, 2024. This expanded program must at least include the pilot program's components that require state police officer training, coordination between state police officers and mental health professionals, and referrals to mental health services facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***CRISIS Initiative Pilot Program***

The CRISIS Initiative pilot program has generally established procedures among specific State Police and DMHAS personnel for referring and handling incidents involving individuals with addiction disorders or mental health conditions as well as other crisis incidents. The program began in 2017 and involved DMHAS assigning a full-time licensed clinician social worker with State Police Troop E, which generally covers southeast Connecticut and is based out of Montville. The 2021 budget implementer expanded the program to Troop D, which generally covers northeast Connecticut and is based out of Killingly (PA 21-2, June Special Session, § 75).

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)