
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 972 (File 379, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN POLICE OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

SUMMARY

Under existing law, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), the State Police, or a municipal police department must include POST-developed curricula for police officers on interacting with people who (1) have mental or physical disabilities and (2) are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. This bill requires POST, by July 1, 2024, to add to these curricula crisis intervention strategies for police officers to use when interacting with people with mental illness in crisis.

The bill also builds off social worker feasibility evaluations that were required by Section 18 of PA 20-1, July Special Session. Under the act, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and each municipal police department had to submit to POST an evaluation of the feasibility and potential impact of social workers responding to calls for assistance (either remotely or in person) or joining a police officer on calls where a social worker's experience and training could provide help. The bill requires POST, by January 1, 2024, to (1) examine these evaluations and any programs and strategies used in Connecticut or other jurisdictions on police officer and social worker collaborations and (2) issue guidance to law enforcement units with recommendations on how police officers may collaborate with social workers.

*Senate Amendment "A" moves up, from July 1 to January 1, 2024, the date by which POST must complete its social worker-related examination and issue guidance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)