
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1162

AN ACT REQUIRING COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES AND FUNDING COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS TO COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to create a pilot program for FYs 24 and 25 to provide funding for law enforcement units in certain large cities (effectively, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury) to combat gun violence and build trust between law enforcement and their communities. DESPP may expand the program to units in certain other municipalities if it has the funding to do so.

Additionally, by October 1, 2023, and on a quarterly basis afterwards, each municipal law enforcement unit must hold a meeting, open to the public, with stakeholders who also serve the municipality to work towards reducing gun violence and crime. Under the bill, units may decide to hold meetings more often than quarterly or not at all if a unit's chief, the municipality's chief executive officer, and the municipality's civilian police review board, if any, agree a meeting is unnecessary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DESPP PILOT PROGRAM

Under the bill's pilot program, DESPP must first specifically fund law enforcement units in municipalities with at least 100,000 people. If the department has enough funding, it may make the program available to units serving municipalities that have fewer than 100,000 people and are experiencing increased gun violence. For this program's purposes, 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 (CGS § 7-294a(8)).

By October 1, 2023, DESPP must post, in a conspicuous place on its website, a description of the pilot program that includes the eligibility criteria and application process. It may determine the application process and forms for law enforcement units.

By July 1, 2025, each unit that receives program funding must report to DESPP on how the unit used the funds and whether they impacted gun violence in its municipality and the unit's relationship with its community. By January 1, 2026, DESPP must report to the Public Safety and Security Committee on (1) the total amount of program funds spent, (2) the amounts given to each unit, and (3) a summary of the units' reports to the department.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

For stakeholder meetings, each municipal law enforcement unit must at least invite one prosecutor, who must serve in the judicial district that includes the municipality, and representatives from: (1) social services and mental health agencies and organizations serving the municipality, (2) organizations combatting gun violence in the municipality, and (3) the judicial branch.

The meetings must seek to do the following:

1. encourage data collection and information sharing among meeting participants,
2. improve the responsiveness and accountability of the law enforcement unit to municipal residents, and
3. develop partnerships and coordinated strategies among participants and improve the responsiveness and provision of services by meeting participants towards reducing gun violence and crime in the municipality.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 4 (03/16/2023)