



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 87

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6572

House of Representatives, March 16, 2023

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OF MINORS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2023*):

4 (d) The commissioner shall establish such divisions as the
5 commissioner deems necessary for effective operation of the state police
6 force and consistent with budgetary allotments, a Criminal Intelligence
7 Division, [and] a state-wide organized crime investigative task force to
8 be engaged throughout the state for the purpose of preventing and
9 detecting any violation of the criminal law, [and] a Hate Crimes
10 Investigative Unit for the purposes described in section 29-7d, and, for
11 the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, an investigative
12 task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors
13 for the purposes described in section 2 of this act. The head of the

14 Criminal Intelligence Division shall be of the rank of sergeant or above.
15 The head of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit shall be of the rank of
16 sergeant or above, and shall serve as a member of the State-Wide Hate
17 Crimes Advisory Council, established under section 51-279f. The head
18 of the state-wide organized crime investigative task force shall be a
19 police officer. The head of the investigative task force relating to the
20 online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors shall be of the rank of
21 sergeant or above.

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the fiscal years ending
23 June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the Commissioner of Emergency
24 Services and Public Protection shall assign to the investigative task force
25 relating to the online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors,
26 established under subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes,
27 as amended by this act, such personnel as may be required to fulfill the
28 duties of this section. The task force shall utilize existing resources and
29 processes to:

30 (1) Investigate any suspected criminal activity and arrest any
31 individual who commits any criminal activity in the state in which such
32 individual uses the Internet to sexually abuse, sexually exploit or
33 sexually assault a minor online or in-person, or attempt to sexually
34 abuse, sexually exploit or sexually assault a minor online or in person;

35 (2) Compile, monitor and analyze data regarding any criminal
36 activity or suspected criminal activity described in subdivision (1) of this
37 subsection; and

38 (3) Share data and information with, and, at the discretion of the head
39 of the task force, provide additional assistance to, any law enforcement
40 unit to assist in the investigation of any criminal activity or suspected
41 criminal activity described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

42 (b) Not later than November 1, 2023, the Police Officer Standards and
43 Training Council, in consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency
44 Services and Public Protection, shall:

45 (1) Develop, and disseminate to all law enforcement units, a
46 standardized form or other reporting system to be used by a law
47 enforcement unit in making an initial notification or report to the
48 investigative task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual
49 abuse of minors as required by subsection (c) of this section;

50 (2) Develop best practices to facilitate the continued sharing of
51 information among and between the investigative task force relating to
52 the online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors and law enforcement
53 units;

54 (3) Take such actions as are necessary to inform the public of its right
55 to report any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity as
56 described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and how to
57 make such reports, including, but not limited to, considering the
58 establishment of state and municipal telephone hotlines and Internet
59 web sites that can be used to make reports; and

60 (4) Develop a model policy for the investigation of the online sexual
61 exploitation and abuse of minors.

62 (c) Each law enforcement unit shall, not later than fourteen days after
63 receiving notification, information or a complaint of any criminal
64 activity or suspected criminal activity described in subdivision (1) of
65 subsection (a) of this section, provide a notice and report to the
66 investigative task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual
67 abuse of minors regarding such criminal activity or suspected criminal
68 activity using the standardized form or other reporting system
69 developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section.
70 The law enforcement unit shall continue to share information regarding
71 the investigation of such criminal activity or suspected criminal activity
72 with the investigative task force relating to the online exploitation and
73 sexual abuse of minors according to the best practices developed
74 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

75 (d) Not later than January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026, the
76 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall submit

77 an annual report regarding the activity and results of the investigative
 78 task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors,
 79 as well as a recommendation as to whether the investigative task force
 80 should be extended, to the joint standing committees of the General
 81 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, public
 82 safety and judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
 83 of the general statutes.

84 (e) For purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" has the same
 85 meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	29-4(d)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a)(3), "and may provide" was changed to "and, at the discretion of the head of the task force, provide", for clarity.

KID Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	400,106	331,376
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	72,313	72,313

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes an investigative task force within the State Police relating to the online exploitation and sexual abuse of children resulting in a cost of \$472,419 in FY 24 and \$403,689 in FY 25 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC).

To meet the requirements of the bill, DESPP will need to hire two fusion center analysts to monitor, analyze and share data regarding any criminal activity under the task force's cognizance, which will cost the agency \$188,876 in FY 24 and FY 25. This will also cost \$72,313 in FY 24 and FY 25 to OSC for associated fringe benefits.

Personnel training and the purchase of forensic computers required to implement the task force are expected to result in a one-time cost of \$68,730 in FY 24. Software licenses are anticipated to cost \$142,500 in FY

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

24 and FY 25.

The bill also requires all law enforcement units, after receiving any information on covered criminal activity, to report it to the investigative task force, which is not anticipated to incur an additional cost to DESPP or municipal police departments.

The Out Years

The bill specifies that the task force will only be established in FY 24 and FY 25, resulting in no fiscal impact beyond FY 25.

Sources: Department of Administrative Services website

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6572

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OF MINORS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to (1) establish a task force for FYs 24 and 25 to investigate online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors and (2) assign staff as needed to fulfill task force duties. Among other things, the task force must (1) investigate these crimes and arrest people who commit them and (2) compile and analyze related data.

By November 1, 2023, the bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), in consultation with the DESPP commissioner, to develop (1) a standardized form or other reporting system for law enforcement to report to the task force, (2) best practices for information sharing between the task force and law enforcement units, (3) a model policy for investigating online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors, and (4) ways to inform the public on how to report these criminal activities.

The bill also requires law enforcement units, after receiving any information on this type of criminal activity, to report it to the investigative task force and continue to share information using the tools that POST develops, as described above.

Lastly, the bill requires DESPP to report annually on the task force's activity and results and recommend whether the task force should be extended. The reports must be submitted to the Children, Judiciary, and Public Safety and Security committees, by January 1, 2025, and January

1, 2026.

Under the bill, 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE ON ONLINE EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

Task Force Responsibilities

The task force must use existing resources and processes to:

1. investigate any suspected criminal activity that involves using the Internet to sexually abuse, exploit, or assault a minor online or in-person;
2. arrest anyone who commits or attempts to commit these crimes;
3. compile, monitor, and analyze related data; and
4. share data and information with any law enforcement unit to help investigate this type of criminal activity.

At the discretion of the head of the task force, who must be ranked sergeant or higher, the task force may also provide more help to law enforcement units.

POST’s Standardized Form, Best Practices, Policy, and Reporting

By November 1, 2023, the bill requires POST, in consultation with the DESPP commissioner, to develop the following:

1. a standardized form or other reporting system, which must be distributed to all law enforcement units to use when making an initial notification or report to the investigative task force as the

bill requires (see below);

2. best practices to facilitate the continued sharing of information among, and between, the investigative task force and law enforcement units; and
3. a model policy for the investigation of the online sexual exploitation and abuse of minors.

POST, by November 1, 2023, and in consultation with the DESPP commissioner, must also take any actions necessary to inform the public (1) of its right to report criminal activity or suspected criminal activity that uses the Internet to sexually abuse, exploit, or assault minors online or in-person and (2) how to make these reports, such as considering whether to establish state and municipal telephone hotlines and Internet websites.

Law Enforcement Units' Information Sharing

Under the bill, within 14 days after receiving notification, information, or a complaint of this criminal activity or suspected criminal activity, the law enforcement unit must notify and report to the investigative task force using the standardized form or other reporting system POST develops.

The bill also requires the law enforcement unit to continue to share investigation information with the task force following the best practices POST develops.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/02/2023)