



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 353

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6579

House of Representatives, April 3, 2023

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1,
2 2024, the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
3 Services and Public Protection shall, in conjunction with the Department
4 of Mental Health and Addiction Services, expand the pilot program
5 known as the CRISIS Initiative: Connection to Recovery through
6 Intervention, Support and Initiating Services throughout the state. At a
7 minimum, such expanded program shall include the components of the
8 pilot program that require training for state police officers, coordination
9 between state police officers and mental health professionals and
10 referrals to facilities for mental health services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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PS Joint Favorable

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 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	390,000 - 1.9 million	See Below
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	455,400	933,570
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	248,000 - 452,000	399,750

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which expands the CRISIS Initiative pilot program throughout the state by January 1, 2024, is anticipated to result in a total state cost ranging from \$1.1 million to \$2.8 million in FY 24 and at least \$1.3 million in FY 25.

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) of at least \$390,000 and up to \$1.9 million in FY 24, with a cost to the Office of the State Comptroller ranging from \$53,000 to \$267,000 for associated fringe benefits, depending on how many additional state troopers are trained in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. Currently, there are about 40 trained CIT state troopers.

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.

The cost to train an additional 136 troopers to achieve 25% of troopers trained,² is approximately \$440,000, while the cost to train all remaining troopers is approximately \$2.1 million (inclusive of training fees, overtime costs, and associated fringe benefit rates to cover officers who go to training). CIT training is a 40-hour course and costs \$189 per trooper.

The bill also results in a cost to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) of approximately \$455,400 in FY 24 and \$933,750 in FY 25 (with associated fringe costs of \$195,000 in FY 24 and \$399,750 in FY 25) to support 9 additional social workers. Social workers will assist state police in deescalating situations involving individuals with mental illness and ensure access to follow-up services.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. The annual cost to train state police and cover overtime costs would be based on the number of additional troopers requiring CIT training in the future.

² According to the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE), the state's provider of CIT training, the goal of the CIT program is for each department to have at least 25% of its sworn patrol force trained and to have several CIT officers cover each shift.

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)