



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 391

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1162

Senate, April 3, 2023

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. GASTON of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before October 1,
2 2023, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, except as provided in
3 subsection (b) of this section, each municipal law enforcement unit shall
4 hold a meeting with stakeholders in the municipality such unit serves.
5 The unit shall invite to such meetings, at a minimum, representatives
6 from social services and mental health agencies and organizations that
7 serve the municipality, representatives from organizations that seek to
8 combat gun violence in the municipality, representatives from the
9 judicial branch and one or more prosecutors serving the judicial district
10 that includes the municipality. Such meetings shall seek to: (1)
11 Encourage information sharing, including collection and sharing of
12 data, among meeting participants; (2) develop partnerships and
13 coordinated strategies among participants to reduce gun violence and
14 crime in the municipality; and (3) improve the responsiveness and

15 accountability of the law enforcement unit to the residents of the
16 municipality, and improve the responsiveness of and provision of
17 services by meeting participants to the residents of the municipality, in
18 order to better serve the municipality and reduce gun violence and
19 crime in the municipality. Such meetings may occur more frequently
20 than quarterly as determined by the unit. Such meetings shall be open
21 to the public.

22 (b) If the chief of a municipal law enforcement unit, the chief
23 executive officer, as described in section 7-193 of the general statutes, of
24 the municipality served by such law enforcement unit and the civilian
25 police review board serving such municipality, if any, agree that a
26 meeting required by subsection (a) of this section is unnecessary, such
27 meeting shall not be held.

28 *Sec. 2. (Effective from passage)* (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30,
29 2024, and June 30, 2025, the Department of Emergency Services and
30 Public Protection shall establish a pilot program to provide law
31 enforcement units, as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes,
32 that serve a municipality with a population of one hundred thousand or
33 more with funding to enhance community policing programs, in order
34 to combat gun violence and build trust between law enforcement units
35 and the communities such units serve. If the department has sufficient
36 funds, the department may make such program available to law
37 enforcement units serving municipalities with populations of less than
38 one hundred thousand that are experiencing increased gun violence.

39 (b) Not later than October 1, 2023, the Department of Emergency
40 Services and Public Protection shall post, in a conspicuous place on the
41 department's Internet web site, a description of the pilot program,
42 including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and the application
43 process for the pilot program. A law enforcement unit shall apply for
44 such program on such forms and in such manner as determined by the
45 department.

46 (c) Each law enforcement unit that receives funding under the
47 program shall report to the department by July 1, 2025, on how the unit

48 has used the funds and whether such use impacted gun violence in the
49 municipality and the unit's relationship with the community.

50 (d) Not later than January 1, 2026, the department shall report, in
51 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
52 the following information to the joint standing committee of the General
53 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and
54 security: (1) The total amount of funds expended for the program, (2)
55 the amounts provided to specific law enforcement units, and (3) a
56 summary of the reports received by the department pursuant to
57 subsection (c) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a), "they" was changed to "such units" for clarity; and in Section 2(d), "public safety" was changed to "public safety and security" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

PS *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 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost/Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Bridgeport; Hartford; New Haven; Stamford; Waterbury	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to create a pilot program addressing gun violence to provide funding to law enforcement units serving municipalities with populations over 100,000 in FY 24 and FY 25, resulting in a cost to the state and a revenue gain to the Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury police departments, depending on the amount of funding DESPP provides.¹

DESPP may expand the program to also fund units serving other municipalities, resulting in a potential cost to the state and a potential revenue gain to those municipalities.

¹ The bill does not specify how much funding will be provided to each city.

The bill also establishes reporting requirements for participants in the pilot program and generally requires all municipal law enforcement units to hold quarterly meetings with stakeholders addressing gun violence, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

The pilot program is only effective in FY 24 and FY 25, resulting in no fiscal impact in the out years.

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)