

Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5360

AN ACT REQUIRING FIREARM INCIDENT REPORTS FROM POLICE OFFICERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF SUCH DATA BY THE DEPARTMENT
Title: OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.

Vote Date: 3/16/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/23/2023

File No.: 351

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REASONS FOR BILL:

The proposed bill seeks to address the critical issue of the State's inability to collect and report accurate data on crimes involving firearms. By mandating the completion of firearm incident reports by police officers for every crime in which firearms are involved, the bill aims to create a comprehensive database of statistics from law enforcement units across the state. These reports would include crucial information such as the names of individuals involved,

the location and time of the incident, identification of firearms, and their legality of possession. The reports would be sent annually to the DESPP for inclusion in the Connecticut Uniform Crime Report. The current lack of standardization in firearm crime reporting hinders the State's ability to create effective legislation that addresses the unique needs of different regions in reducing firearm violence. The bill aims to rectify this issue and provide a much-needed framework for data collection and reporting.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

- In Section 1, subsection (a), the definition of "police officer" was amended to include the following, "For the purposes of this section, 'police officer' and 'law enforcement unit' have the same meanings as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and a 'firearm' has the same meaning as provided in section 53a-3 of the general statutes." This change was made to reflect other instances of "law enforcement units" have congruent meaning to instances of "police officer" in the bill.
- Subsection (b) is amended to remove the definition of firearm, since it is previously included in the amended subsection (a).
 - o Subsection (b) is further amended to read "On and after October 1, 2023, a police officer who responds to an alleged crime or a fatality that involves the use of a firearm shall complete a firearm incident report using the form prescribed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to subsection (d) of this section" for clarity.
 - o Subsection (b) is further amended to remove "as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes" from after the phrase "Each law enforcement unit" on line 6 as law enforcement unit is previously defined in the amended language.
- Subsection (c) is amended to include "Not later than October 1, 2023" on line 14 to define the date in which the Commissioner of DESPP can produce a firearm incident report to be used by law enforcement units in the State.
 - o Subsection (c) is further amended on line 20 to read "(3) number and identification of the firearm or firearms involved" to clarify that the firearm incident report should indicate if it was a single or multiple firearms involved in the crime.
 - o Subsection (c) is further amended on line 21 to read "the fatality was caused by a person who" to reference that no crime need take place for the report to indicate if the firearm incident was caused, not committed, by a person who had prior convictions that would prevent them from using or owning a firearm.
 - o Subsection (c) is further amended on line 23 and 24 to read "possessing a firearm; (5) whether the alleged crime was committed with, or the fatality was caused by, an illegally possessed or unregistered firearm" to clarify that firearm incident reports need to be completed for instances regarding alleged crime or fatality committed or caused by a firearm.

- Subsection (d) is amended on line 27 to read, "Each law enforcement officer shall forward a" and "shall be forwarded" is removed for clarity in identifying law enforcement officers will be charged with forwarding firearm incident reports to the proper State attorney in cases of an arrest.
- Subsection (e) line 30 is amended to read "Not later than January 1st, 2026" which indicates the extension from January 1st, 2025, for the DESPP to report data compiled in the firearm incident reports to the Governor and General Assembly to ensure adequate time for data collection.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut General Assembly, House Republican Caucus](#): supports this bill because it of the importance of collecting accurate data on crimes involving firearms which is critical in the fight against gun crime. It is stated that the bill would create a much-needed process for collecting, reporting, and maintaining this data by requiring police officers to complete a firearm incident report whenever responding to a crime involving a firearm, regardless of whether an arrest is made. It is also stated that the report would be sent to the DESPP, which would compile and analyze the data for inclusion in the Connecticut Uniform Crime Report. It is stated the proposed form would collect vital information on the number and identification of firearms involved, whether the firearm was illegal or unregistered, and the criminal history of the person involved.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Officer, Gary Corigliano](#): opposes this bill.

Reported by: Lukas Houle

Date: 3/27/2023