

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 23-104—SB 972

Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN POLICE OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS

SUMMARY: Under existing law, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), the State Police, or a municipal police department must include POST-developed curricula for police officers on interacting with people who (1) have mental or physical disabilities and (2) are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. This act requires POST, by July 1, 2024, to add crisis intervention strategies to these curricula for police officers to use when interacting with people with mental illness in crisis.

The act also builds off social worker feasibility evaluations required under existing law. By January 31, 2021, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and each municipal police department had to submit to POST an evaluation of the feasibility and potential impact of social workers responding to calls for assistance (either remotely or in person) or joining a police officer on calls where a social worker's experience and training could provide help (PA 20-1, July Special Session, § 18). The act requires POST, by January 1, 2024, to (1) examine these evaluations and any programs and strategies used in Connecticut or other jurisdictions on police officer and social worker collaborations and (2) issue guidance to law enforcement units with recommendations on how police officers may collaborate with social workers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023