

**Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: HB-7198

AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT OF

Title: CONSERVATION OFFICERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

None

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Commissioners of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to collaborate and develop a report to update the responsibilities given to preservation officers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Kevin Saunders President Connecticut Police & Fire Union](#)

Mr. Saunders express that this bill it will help the conservation officers and state police officers do their jobs better.

[Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy, Audubon Connecticut / New York, National Audubon Society](#)

Mr. LaFrance supports this bill because the work that conservation officers do daily is important. He states that they are lacking the necessary resources needed to do their jobs effectively. He also states that due to the Passport to Parks program enacted in 2017 and the pandemic many parks are seeing an increase in individuals daily and this is causing a strain on the officers. He believes that a biennial review of the appropriate En Con Police staffing levels that can be shared with both commissioners of Energy and Environmental Protection

and the General Assembly would improve transparency and a better understanding of staffing levels and enforcement demands.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[John Brewery](#)

Mr. Brewery does not support the bill because he thinks that the study will lead to the State Police taking control of the En Con. He finds that when departments merge it often leads to disputes.

[Tom McLaren](#)

Mr. McLaren does not support the bill and finds that it is not in the best interest of the conservation officer.

Reported by: Rena Lewis

Date: 3/24/25