



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 842

January Session, 2001

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF TRAFFIC STOPS
STATISTICS BY POLICE DEPARTMENTS.**

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

1 Section 54-1m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
2 substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) Not later than January 1, 2000, each municipal police department
4 and the Department of Public Safety shall adopt a written policy that
5 prohibits the stopping, detention or search of any person when such
6 action is solely motivated by considerations of race, color, ethnicity,
7 age, gender or sexual orientation, and the action would constitute a
8 violation of the civil rights of the person.

9 (b) Commencing on January 1, 2000, each municipal police
10 department and the Department of Public Safety shall, using the form
11 developed and promulgated pursuant to subsection (i) of this section,
12 record and retain the following information: (1) The number of persons
13 stopped for traffic violations; (2) characteristics of race, color, ethnicity,
14 gender and age of such persons, provided the identification of such
15 characteristics shall be based on the observation and perception of the
16 police officer responsible for reporting the stop and the information
17 shall not be required to be provided by the person stopped; (3) the
18 nature of the alleged traffic violation that resulted in the stop; (4)
19 whether a warning or citation was issued, an arrest made or a search

20 conducted as a result of the stop; and (5) any additional information
21 that such municipal police department or the Department of Public
22 Safety, as the case may be, deems appropriate.

23 (c) Each municipal police department and the Department of Public
24 Safety shall provide to the Chief State's Attorney (1) a copy of each
25 complaint received pursuant to subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, of this
26 section, and (2) written notification of the review and disposition of
27 such complaint.

28 (d) Any police officer who in good faith records traffic stop
29 information pursuant to the requirements of subsections (a) to (h),
30 inclusive, of this section shall not be held civilly liable for the act of
31 recording such information unless the officer's conduct was
32 unreasonable or reckless.

33 (e) If a municipal police department or the Department of Public
34 Safety fails to comply with the provisions of subsections (a) to (h),
35 inclusive, of this section, the Chief State's Attorney may recommend
36 and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may order
37 an appropriate penalty in the form of the withholding of state funds
38 from such department or the Department of Public Safety.

39 (f) On or before October 1, 2000, and annually thereafter, each
40 municipal police department and the Department of Public Safety shall
41 provide to the Chief State's Attorney, in such form as the Chief State's
42 Attorney shall prescribe, a summary report of the information
43 recorded pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

44 (g) The Chief State's Attorney shall, within the limits of existing
45 appropriations, provide for a review of the prevalence and disposition
46 of traffic stops and complaints reported pursuant to subsections (a) to
47 (h), inclusive, of this section. Not later than January 1, 2002, the Chief
48 State's Attorney shall report to the Governor and General Assembly
49 the results of such review, including any recommendations.

50 (h) The provisions of subsections (f) and (g) of this section shall be

51 in effect from October 1, 1999, until January 1, [2002] 2004.

52 (i) Not later than January 1, 2000, the Chief State's Attorney, in
53 conjunction with the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Attorney
54 General, the Chief Court Administrator, the Police Officer Standards
55 and Training Council, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and
56 the Connecticut Coalition of Police and Correctional Officers, shall
57 develop and promulgate: (1) A form, in both printed and electronic
58 format, to be used by police officers when making a traffic stop to
59 record personal identifying information about the operator of the
60 motor vehicle that is stopped, the location of the stop, the reason for
61 the stop and other information that is required to be recorded pursuant
62 to subsection (b) of this section; and (2) a form, in both printed and
63 electronic format, to be used to report complaints pursuant to
64 subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, of this section by persons who believe
65 they have been subjected to a motor vehicle stop by a police officer
66 solely on the basis of their race, color, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual
67 orientation.

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*