



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

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## HISTORY OF STATE POLICE STAFFING STATUTE

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You asked how the law on state police staffing levels has changed over time.

A 1903 act created the Connecticut State Police Department under a board of commissioners. It required the board to appoint five state police officers and allowed it to appoint an additional five if needed (1903 Ch. 141).

Since 1903, the staffing level provision has been amended 20 times to increase the number of officers on the force; add female officers; and modify the appointing authority's charge, by mandating appointments in some cases and making it discretionary in others.

The law has always specified the staffing level for the force, except for 1973-1998, when it authorized the appointment of an "adequate number" to "efficiently maintain the operation of the division in keeping with budgetary allowances" (CGS § [29-4](#)). During the periods when the law set staffing levels, it did so in one of four ways, by specifying:

1. both the maximum and minimum of officers (1903 to 1920),
2. only the maximum number (1921 to 1928),
3. a set number (1929 to 1972), and
4. only the minimum number (1998 to the present).

On January 11, 2012, a Superior Court judge ruled that the 1998 law requiring the public safety commissioner (now Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner) to appoint and maintain a minimum of 1,248 state police officers is mandatory ((*State Police Union v. DESPP Commissioner*, Doc. No. HHD CV 116024776, (2012)). The defendants in the case had argued that the statute is not mandatory, and the commissioner was not required to maintain 1,248 state police officers (see OLR Report [2012-R-0071](#)).

Until 1940, the law provided for the appointment of male officers only. A 1941 law added two females to the force, and a 1945 law raised the number to 12. It remained at 12 for 31 years, while the number of male officers increased from 290 to 810. In 1973, the statute eliminated gender-based appointments, thereby allowing the commissioner to appoint officers regardless of gender.

Attachment 1 shows the changes affecting staffing levels since the statute was enacted.

**Attachment 1: Changes in State Police Staffing Statute**

<b>Year/Legislation</b>	<b>Number of Officers Appointing Authority Shall or May Appoint</b>	<b>Gender of Officers</b>
1903 (1903 Ch. 141)	Shall appoint five; may appoint additional five as "necessity may require"	Male
1913 (1913 Ch. 121)	Shall appoint five; may appoint additional 10 "as necessity may require"	Male
1921 (1921 Ch. 273)	Shall appoint <i>up to</i> 50	Male
1923 (1923 Ch. 202)	Shall appoint <i>up to</i> 80	Male
1927 (1927 Ch. 292)	Shall appoint <i>up to</i> 100	Male
1929 (1929 Ch. 214)	Shall appoint 125	Male
1935 (1935 Ch. 298)	Shall appoint 175	Male
1937 (1937 Ch. 389)*	Shall appoint 200	Male
1937 (1937 Ch. 453)*	Shall appoint 225	Male
1941 (1941 Ch. 74)	Shall appoint 277	275 males; two females
1945 (PA 154)	Shall appoint 302	290 males; 12 females
1947 (PA 67)	Shall appoint 312	300 males; 12 females
1953 (PA 427)	May appoint 362	350 males; 12 females
1957 (PA 431)	May appoint 462	450 males; 12 females
1963 (PA 633)	May appoint 512	500 males; 12 females
1965 (PA 290)	May appoint 602	590 males; 12 females
1967 (PA 127)	May appoint 677	665 males; 12 females
1969 (PA 587)	May appoint 777	765 males; 12 females
1972 (SA 53)	May appoint 822	810 males; 12 females
1973 (PA 73-374)	May appoint "an adequate number. . . to efficiently maintain the operation of the department in keeping with budgetary allowances"	None specified
1998 (PA 98-151)	Shall appoint and maintain a <i>minimum of</i> 1,248	None specified

Source: Compiled by OLR from a review of Public Acts  
\* Two separate acts were passed in 1937

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