



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 725

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6628

House of Representatives, May 6, 2013

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. FOX, G. of the 146th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS BY POLICE OFFICERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) Not later than October 1,
2 2013, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established
3 under section 7-294b of the general statutes shall establish policies and
4 guidelines for the use of electronic defense weapons, as defined in
5 section 53a-3 of the general statutes, by police officers in the discharge
6 of their official duties. On and after January 1, 2014, each police basic
7 or review training program conducted or administered by the Police
8 Officer Standards and Training Council, the Division of State Police
9 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or
10 a municipal police department shall provide training to police officers
11 in the use of electronic defense weapons in accordance with the
12 policies and guidelines established by the Police Officer Standards and
13 Training Council pursuant to this section. Such training shall include,
14 but need not be limited to, instruction on (1) the capabilities and

15 limitations of electronic defense weapon technology in terms of its
16 effectiveness, (2) the effects that the use of an electronic defense
17 weapon may have on a person, including, but not limited to, adverse
18 medical effects, and (3) the parts of the body that should not be a target
19 of electronic defense weapon use.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	Less than 1,500	Less than 2,500

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to establish guidelines on the use of electronic defense weapons and to include training on the use of such weapons in its programs for new and existing officers.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) is anticipated to incur costs in developing and implementing the required training module. The cost to DESPP will be dependent upon the training that is developed and the number of courses offered each year.

Adjunct instructors at POST are paid approximately \$20 per hour for teaching at the Connecticut Police Academy. Typically, the academy holds four basic training sessions for new officers with additional recertification classes held throughout the year. As such, the cost of implementing the provisions of the bill is not anticipated to exceed \$1,500 in FY 14 and \$2,500 in FY 15, the first full year of mandated training.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of courses held each year and the rate of pay for POST instructors.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6628

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS BY POLICE OFFICERS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires (1) the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), by October 1, 2013, to establish policies and guidelines on electronic defense weapon use by police in discharging their duties and (2) police basic and review training programs to include training based on these policies and guidelines starting January 1, 2014. The training requirement applies to programs conducted or administered by POST, the State Police, and municipal police departments.

The bill requires the training to at least cover:

1. electronic defense weapons' capabilities and limitations in terms of their effectiveness;
2. the effects their use may have on someone, including adverse medical effects; and
3. parts of the body that should not be targeted.

By law, an electronic defense weapon is a weapon with an electronic impulse or current capable of immobilizing a person temporarily, but not capable of inflicting death or serious physical injury. It includes a stun gun or other conductive energy device.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

POST

The council (1) trains, certifies, and establishes minimum

qualifications for municipal police officers and others and (2) enforces professional standards for certifying and decertifying them.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 42 Nay 0 (04/19/2013)