

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-192—HB 6375

*Public Safety and Security Committee
Planning and Development Committee
Judiciary Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

SUMMARY: This act authorizes the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to deny eligibility for state and federal law enforcement grants to any municipality whose police department does not comply with the state's uniform crime reporting (UCR) system's reporting requirements (see BACKGROUND).

The law requires the emergency services and public protection (DESPP) commissioner to establish a state UCR program. Under the state program, police departments must submit to the commissioner, at such times as he prescribes, reports on the number and nature of crimes committed within their jurisdictions and other such information as he requires. DESPP sends the data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which compiles and publishes states' data annually in its *Crime in the United States* series.

Under the act, if a department does not submit the required report or submits a report with missing, incomplete, or incorrect information, the commissioner must notify OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division and the municipality's chief elected official, and OPM may deny the town eligibility for state or federal law enforcement grants. The notice to the elected official must include a statement of the consequences of noncompliance.

Information is considered missing, incomplete, or incorrect under the act if (1) so designated by the FBI or (2) not submitted within 60 days of the end of the month in which it must be reported.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

UCR Program

Under the UCR program, law enforcement agencies nationwide voluntarily provide data on crime within their jurisdictions to the FBI, either through a state UCR program, as is the case in Connecticut, or directly to the FBI's UCR program if the state has no UCR program. Under Connecticut's UCR program, police departments submit crime data to DESPP, which must publish annual reports on the extent, fluctuation, and nature of crime in Connecticut. Nationally, the states' UCR data is used in law enforcement administration, operation, and management, and to indicate fluctuations in crime levels in the United States.

OLR Tracking: VR:SP:TA:ts