

Summary of sSB 849

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Issue

Analyze sSB 849: An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Substance Abuse Treatment Referral Programs Established by Municipal Police Departments, which was reported favorably by the Public Safety and Security Committee on March 15, 2017.

Summary

The bill establishes an 11-member task force to study local police programs that refer people who have, or are seeking to recover from, opioid use or other drug addiction problems to drug treatment facilities. The task force must examine the programs, identify any barriers they face, and determine the feasibility of implementing them statewide.

The task force consists of (1) the emergency services and public protection commissioner or her designee; (2) the mental health and addiction services commissioner or her designee; (3) a Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council representative, appointed by the council's cochairpersons; and (4) eight members appointed by legislative leadership, representing local police and municipalities.

By January 1, 2018, the task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee, at which point it terminates.

The bill takes effect upon passage.

Appointed Members

Task force members must be appointed as follows and vacancies filled by appointing authorities:

1. two by the House speaker, one of them a police chief;
2. two by the Senate president pro tempore, one of them a chief elected official from a town with a population of less than 25,000;
3. one by the House majority leader, who must be a member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association;
4. one by the Senate majority leader, who must be a police chief who oversees a substance abuse treatment referral program;
5. one by the House minority leader, who must be a chief elected official from a town with a population of 25,000 or more; and
6. one by the Senate minority leader, no specific qualifications.

All appointments must be made by the 30th day after the bill takes effect. Any appointee may be a legislator.

The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons from among the task force members. The chairpersons must schedule the first task force meeting not later than 60 days after the bill takes effect.

Under the bill, the Public Safety and Security Committee's administrative staff serves as administrative staff of the task force.

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