



# House of Representatives

**File No. 963**

General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**(Reprint of File No. 122)**

House Bill No. 7000  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 20, 2019

**AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL**

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-294h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

3 On and after January 1, 2017: (1) Each police basic or field training  
4 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police  
5 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
6 shall provide a minimum of twenty-seven hours of training relative to  
7 the handling of juvenile matters which includes, but is not limited to,  
8 the following: (A) Techniques for handling incidents involving  
9 juveniles; (B) information relative to the processing and disposition of  
10 juvenile matters; (C) applicable procedures in the prosecution of cases  
11 involving juveniles; (D) information regarding resources of the  
12 juvenile justice system in the state; (E) the use of graduated sanctions;  
13 (F) techniques for handling trauma; (G) restorative justice practices;  
14 (H) adolescent development; (I) risk-assessment and screening tools;

15 (J) emergency mobile psychiatric services; and (K) on and after January  
16 1, [2018] 2020, techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering,  
17 that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder,  
18 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the  
19 curriculum for such techniques is available at no cost to the division  
20 from (i) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or  
21 advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults  
22 with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal  
23 learning disorder, or (ii) a collaboration of such institutions,  
24 professionals or organizations; (2) each police basic or field training  
25 program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards  
26 and Training Council established under section 7-294b or by a  
27 municipal police department in the state shall provide a minimum of  
28 fourteen hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters  
29 as provided in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) each police  
30 review training program conducted or administered by the Division of  
31 State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
32 Protection, by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council  
33 established under section 7-294b or by a municipal police department  
34 in the state shall provide a minimum of one hour of training relative to  
35 the handling of juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this  
36 section.

37 Sec. 2. Section 7-323l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

39 (a) The commission shall:

40 (1) Recommend minimum standards of education and physical  
41 condition required of each candidate for any firefighter position;

42 (2) Establish standards for a fire service training and education  
43 program, on a voluntary basis, and develop and conduct an  
44 examination program to certify those fire service personnel who  
45 satisfactorily demonstrate their ability to meet the requirements of the  
46 fire service training and education program standards;

47       (3) Establish an optional fire service training and education program  
48 in the handling of incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles  
49 and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or  
50 nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum for such  
51 techniques is made available at no cost from (A) institutions of higher  
52 education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are  
53 concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder,  
54 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B)  
55 collaborations of such institutions, professionals or organizations;

56       [(3)] (4) Conduct fire fighting training and education programs  
57 designed to assist firefighters in developing and maintaining their  
58 skills and keeping abreast of technological advances in fire  
59 suppression, fire protection, fire prevention and related fields;

60       [(4)] (5) Recommend standards for promotion to the various ranks  
61 of fire departments;

62       [(5)] (6) Be authorized, with the approval of the Commissioner of  
63 Emergency Services and Public Protection, to apply for, receive and  
64 distribute any state, federal or private funds or contributions available  
65 for training and education of fire fighting personnel;

66       [(6)] (7) Recommend that the Commissioner of Emergency Services  
67 and Public Protection approve or reject the establishment of, or, when  
68 appropriate, suspend or revoke the approval of, regional fire schools in  
69 accordance with section 7-323u; and

70       [(7)] (8) Submit to the Governor, the Joint Legislative Management  
71 Committee of the General Assembly and the Commissioner of  
72 Emergency Services and Public Protection an annual report relating to  
73 the activities, recommendations and accomplishments of the  
74 commission.

75       (b) The commission may recommend, and the Commissioner of  
76 Emergency Services and Public Protection may adopt, regulations in  
77 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 as necessary to

78 implement the provisions of this section.

79       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) Not later than June 30, 2020,  
80 and annually thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall, within  
81 available appropriations, compile a list of training programs that are  
82 available to members of commercial ambulance services, commercial  
83 rescue services, volunteer and municipal ambulance services,  
84 ambulance services and paramedic intercept services operated and  
85 maintained by a state agency and emergency medical services  
86 personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj of the general statutes. Such  
87 training programs shall be approved by the Commissioner of Public  
88 Health and include techniques for handling incidents, such as  
89 wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum  
90 disorder, cognitive impairment and nonverbal learning disorder. Such  
91 training programs may be offered by institutions of higher education,  
92 health care professionals and advocacy organizations that are  
93 concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder,  
94 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, and  
95 collaborations of such institutions, professionals or organizations. The  
96 department may accept private donations for the purposes of this  
97 section.

98       (b) Not later than July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the  
99 Department of Public Health shall make the list compiled pursuant to  
100 subsection (a) of this section available to members of commercial  
101 ambulance services, commercial rescue services, volunteer and  
102 municipal ambulance services, ambulance services and paramedic  
103 intercept services operated and maintained by any state agency and  
104 emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj of  
105 the general statutes.

106       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this section:

107       (1) "Emergency medical services personnel" has the same meaning  
108 as provided in section 20-206jj of the general statutes;

109       (2) "Firefighter" means a uniformed member of a paid or volunteer

110 fire department; and

111 (3) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 46b-  
112 15 of the general statutes.

113 (b) The University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in  
114 Developmental Disabilities shall develop a communication aid for use  
115 by emergency medical services personnel, firefighters, police officers,  
116 active members of ambulance services licensed or certified in  
117 accordance with section 19a-180 of the general statutes, emergency  
118 mobile psychiatric services personnel and mental health crisis  
119 intervention services personnel. Such communication aid shall  
120 describe techniques for serving and interacting with juveniles and  
121 adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment and  
122 nonverbal learning disorder and contain communication aids for use  
123 during emergencies when verbal communication may be hindered or  
124 impossible. Not later than December 1, 2019, the center shall publish  
125 such communication aid on its Internet web site.

126 (c) On and after January 1, 2020, each emergency medical services  
127 personnel, firefighter, police officer, active member of an ambulance  
128 service licensed or certified in accordance with section 19a-180 of the  
129 general statutes, emergency mobile psychiatric services personnel and  
130 mental health crisis intervention services personnel shall maintain a  
131 paper or electronic copy of the communication aid developed pursuant  
132 to subsection (b) of this section in any vehicle used by such personnel,  
133 officer or member in the course of his or her duties.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	7-294h
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	7-323l
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

*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.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

There is no fiscal impact resulting from the bill as amended, which expands existing police officer training curriculum related to autism spectrum disorder, establishes an optional training program for fire service personnel, requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to maintain a list of related training programs for ambulance services, and requires the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence to develop and electronically publish a communication aid for emergency personnel. All of the requirements in the amendment are expected to be fulfilled at no cost, as the established training program must be done at no cost in collaboration with other institutions, and DPH and the Center for Excellence may publish their material on the internet rather than print.

House "A" struck the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and established the various requirements outlined above.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7000 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), starting by June 30, 2020, and within available appropriations, to annually compile a list of available training programs for certain first responders regarding individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), nonverbal learning disorder (NLD), and cognitive impairment. DPH must make the list available to those first responders annually by July 1. The bill permits DPH to accept private donations for these purposes.

The bill also requires the UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to develop a communication aid for certain first responders to use to communicate with individuals with ASD, NLD, or cognitive impairment during emergencies when verbal communication may be hindered or impossible. The center must publish the communication aid on its website by December 1, 2019.

Additionally, the bill requires the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to establish an optional fire service training and education program on handling incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with ASD, NLD, or cognitive impairment. The curriculum must be available for free from (1) higher education institutions, health care professionals, or advocacy organizations that are concerned with this population or (2) collaborations of such entities.

Lastly, current law requires the Department of Emergency Services

and Public Protection to include, in its training on juvenile matters for state and local police, techniques for handling incidents involving juveniles with ASD or NLD. Starting January 1, 2020, the bill expands this training requirement to include techniques for handling incidents involving juveniles and adults with ASD, NLD, or cognitive impairment. As under current law, the training must be provided for free. The bill makes corresponding changes to the criteria for the entities that may provide such training.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which required the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to study whether policy and procedural changes may increase effectiveness of DCF services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the provision that makes changes to the police training requirements is effective January 1, 2020.

#### **LIST OF TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Under the bill, the training programs DPH includes in its annual list must be approved by the DPH commissioner and include techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with ASD, NLD, and cognitive impairment. The programs may be offered by (1) higher education institutions, health care professionals, and advocacy organizations concerned with this population and (2) collaborations of such entities.

The training programs must be available for members of commercial ambulance and rescue services, volunteer and municipal ambulance services, ambulance and paramedic intercept services operated and maintained by a state agency, and emergency medical services personnel.

#### **COMMUNICATION AID**

Under the bill, the UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities must develop a communication aid for use by emergency medical services personnel, firefighters, police officers, active members



of licensed or certified ambulance services, emergency mobile psychiatric services personnel, and mental health crisis intervention services personnel.

The communication aid must describe techniques for serving and interacting with juveniles and adults with ASD, NLD, and cognitive impairment and contain communication aids to use during emergencies when verbal communication may be hindered or impossible.

By December 1, 2019, the center must publish the aid on its website. The bill requires the above personnel, starting January 1, 2020, to maintain a paper or electronic copy of the aid in any vehicle they use in the course of their duties.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 14    Nay 0    (03/07/2019)