



PA 19-147—HB 7000
Committee on Children

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

SUMMARY: This act makes various changes related to the training of public safety personnel. Specifically, it requires:

1. 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;
2. the UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to (a) develop a communication aid for certain first responders to communicate with individuals with ASD, NLD, or cognitive impairment during emergencies and (b) publish the aid on its website by December 1, 2019;
3. the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to establish an optional fire service training and education program on handling incidents involving juveniles and adults with ASD, NLD, or cognitive impairment with a curriculum available for free from (a) higher education institutions, health care professionals, or advocacy organizations that are concerned with this population or (b) collaborations of such entities (§ 2); and
4. the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, starting January 1, 2020, to expand its free training on juvenile matters for state and local police to include techniques for handling incidents involving juveniles and adults with ASD, NLD, or cognitive impairment (§ 1).

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

§ 3 — DPH LIST OF TRAINING PROGRAMS

Starting by June 30, 2020, the act requires DPH to annually compile a list of available training programs approved by the DPH commissioner that include techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering, involving 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 or (2) collaborations of such entities.

The act requires the department, annually by July 1, to make the list of training programs available to 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.

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The act permits DPH to accept private donations for these purposes.

§ 4 — COMMUNICATION AID

Under the act, 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.

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