



House Bill No. 7000

Public Act No. 19-147

**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:

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 Section 7-294h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

On and after January 1, 2017: (1) Each police basic or field training program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall provide a minimum of twenty-seven hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters which includes, but is not limited to, the following: (A) Techniques for handling incidents involving juveniles; (B) information relative to the processing and disposition of juvenile matters; (C) applicable procedures in the prosecution of cases involving juveniles; (D) information regarding resources of the juvenile justice system in the state; (E) the use of graduated sanctions; (F) techniques for handling trauma; (G) restorative justice practices; (H) adolescent development; (I) risk-assessment and screening tools; (J) emergency mobile psychiatric services; and (K) on and after January 1, [2018] 2020, techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the

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curriculum for such techniques is available at no cost to the division from (i) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (ii) a collaboration of such institutions, professionals or organizations; (2) each police basic or field training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b or by a municipal police department in the state shall provide a minimum of fourteen hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) each police review training program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b or by a municipal police department in the state shall provide a minimum of one hour of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this section.

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

(a) The commission shall:

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

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

(3) Establish an optional fire service training and education program

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in the handling of incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum for such techniques is made available at no cost from (A) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B) collaborations of such institutions, professionals or organizations;

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The commission may recommend, and the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may adopt, regulations in

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accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

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

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

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

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

(2) "Firefighter" means a uniformed member of a paid or volunteer fire department; and

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

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

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

Approved July 8, 2019