OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 5552

AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOLUNTEER POLICE AUXILIARY FORCE.

SUMMARY

The bill establishes an 11-member task force to study the state’s volunteer police auxiliary force. The task force must identify (1) duties volunteer police auxiliary force members may perform to supplement the work of Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) personnel, (2) strategies to recruit and retain the auxiliary force, (3) minimum training requirements, and (4) any other issues that may limit DESPP’s ability to use the force effectively and efficiently.

Under the bill, the task force must submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the DESPP commissioner and the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2020. By February 1, 2020, the commissioner must (1) review the task force’s report and (2) submit to the Public Safety and Security Committee any recommendations for legislation that the commissioner deems reasonable and necessary in order to recruit, train, and effectively use the volunteer police auxiliary force.

By law, the purpose of the volunteer police auxiliary force is to provide peacetime or wartime emergency services throughout the state, including augmenting state police as the DESSP commissioner deems appropriate (CGS § 29-22).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the reporting requirement for the DESPP commissioner is effective January 1, 2020.

MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

Under the bill, the 11-member task force consists of the DESPP commissioner, or the commissioner’s designee; two gubernatorial appointments; and eight legislative appointments. The House speaker
and the Senate president appoint two members each and the House and Senate majority and minority leaders appoint one member each.

Appointing authorities must make their appointments within 30 days after the bill’s passage and fill any vacancies. Legislative leaders may appoint legislators.

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the task force's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting of the task force within 60 days after the bill’s passage.

The Public Safety and Security Committee’s administrative staff serves as task force staff. The task force terminates when it submits its report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea  24  Nay  0  (03/19/2019)