



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 410

LCO No. 2438



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

(PS)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A UNIT WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE TO INVESTIGATE HATE CRIMES AND CRIMINAL ACTS COMMITTED BY EXTREMIST GROUPS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2020*) There is established in the
2 Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services
3 and Public Protection a Hate Crimes and Extremist Group Investigative
4 Unit. The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
5 shall assign to the unit such personnel as may be required to:

6 (1) Prevent, investigate and detect (A) any activity that may
7 constitute a crime that is a violation of section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-
8 181l of the general statutes, or any other crime that may be motivated by
9 bigotry or bias, and (B) any criminal activity by an extremist group;

10 (2) Analyze data and issue reports on (A) crimes that are violations
11 of section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l of the general statutes, reported
12 to the unit pursuant to section 29-7m of the general statutes, as amended
13 by this act, (B) any other crimes that may be motivated by bigotry or
14 bias, and (C) any criminal activity by extremist groups; and

15 (3) Assist any law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a of
16 the general statutes, with the investigation of (A) any alleged crime that
17 is a violation of section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l of the general
18 statutes, or any other crime that may be motivated by bigotry or bias,
19 and (B) any criminal activity by an extremist group.

20 Sec. 2. Section 29-7m of the general statutes is repealed and the
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

22 (a) [On and after July 1, 1988, the] The Hate Crimes and Extremist
23 Group Investigative Unit of the Division of State Police within the
24 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, established
25 under section 1 of this act, shall monitor, record and classify all crimes
26 committed in the state which are motivated by bigotry or bias.

27 (b) The police department, resident state trooper or constable who
28 performs law enforcement duties for each town shall monitor, record
29 and classify all crimes committed within such town which are violations
30 of section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l and report such information to
31 the [Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
32 Services and Public Protection] unit.

33 (c) Not later than October 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the unit
34 shall publish a report on the department's Internet web site of (1) the
35 information compiled under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and
36 (2) data and reports on the unit's activities under section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2020</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2020</i> | 29-7m |

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a unit within the Division of State Police to investigate hate crimes and criminal acts committed by extremist groups.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]