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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 572**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE TEAMS, REENTRY CENTERS AND POLICE OFFICER TRAINING.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to administer grants to municipalities that form community response teams to work with certain mobile crisis teams.

The bill also requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to administer grants to municipalities that establish a reentry center to help transition offenders from incarceration to the community by connecting them with support services and programs.

Finally, the bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to study the current police basic and review training curriculum in certain areas.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAMS**

The bill requires OPM to administer, by January 1, 2022, grants to municipalities that form community response teams to work with the mobile crisis teams established by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These teams must:

1. be led by a mental health professional and respond to emergency and non-emergency 911 calls for assistance with welfare checks, mental health crises, substance abuse emergencies, or issues related to homelessness and
2. collaboratively operate with the public safety answering point and public safety agencies serving the municipality and be integrated with emergency services dispatching.

Under the bill, a “mental health professional” is a board-certified psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist who has experience diagnosing and treating post-traumatic stress disorder (CGS § 31-294k).

Within one year after receiving a grant, the bill requires a municipality’s chief executive officer to submit a report to the Public Safety and Security Committee concerning the impact of its community response teams on assisting emergency and nonemergency 911 calls and with community interactions.

### **REENTRY CENTERS**

The bill requires DOC to administer, by January 1, 2022, grants to municipalities that establish a reentry center to promote the successful transition of pretrial, paroled, or recently discharged offenders from incarceration to the community by connecting them with support services and programs and other available community resources. The reentry center must serve as a drop-off location for offenders released by the department to facilitate their connection to those resources on their days of release.

### **POLICE TRAINING STUDY**

The bill requires POST to study the current police basic and review training curriculum conducted by the State Police or POST relative to (1) interactions with people with a mental, intellectual, or physical disability; (2) mental health awareness; and (3) de-escalation practices and techniques. POST must also make recommendations to expand opportunities for state and local police officers to receive crisis intervention team patrol specialist training. By February 1, 2022, POST must submit its results and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***Related Bill***

sHB 6597, reported favorably by the Public Safety and Security Committee, requires POST to, among other things, develop a training curriculum for police officers on interacting with people who have mental or physical disabilities by July 1, 2022. Beginning October 1,

2022, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by POST, the State Police, or a municipal police department must include this curriculum.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/24/2021)