



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 294**

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1009

*Senate, April 6, 2021*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. BRADLEY of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT REQUIRING SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENTS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 "social media" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-601 of the  
3 general statutes and "law enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the  
4 same meanings as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes. Not  
5 later than January 1, 2022, the Police Officer Standards and Training  
6 Council shall develop a model policy concerning the use of social media  
7 by law enforcement units and police officers while on duty. Such model  
8 policy shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) guidelines regarding  
9 the use of a social media account used by a law enforcement unit, (2) the  
10 responsibilities of any person employed by the law enforcement unit  
11 who manages and approves content to post on such social media  
12 account, (3) procedures when the unauthorized use of such social media  
13 account is detected, (4) guidelines to ensure compliance with any  
14 applicable state or federal law, (5) guidelines regarding content suitable

15 and not suitable for posting on such social media account, and (6)  
16 methods to limit indecent or obscene content on any such social media  
17 account.

18 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each law enforcement unit shall adopt  
19 and maintain a written policy that meets or exceeds the standards of the  
20 model policy developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

|                                                                               |                     |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |             |
| Section 1                                                                     | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In subsection (a), the first sentence was added for clarity.

**PS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to develop a model social media policy resulting in no fiscal impact because POST has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1009*****AN ACT REQUIRING SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop, by January 1, 2022, a model policy on the use of social media by law enforcement units and police officers while they are on duty. The policy must include:

1. guidelines on using a unit's social media account,
2. the responsibilities of any unit employee who manages and approves content to post on a unit's account,
3. procedures when the unauthorized use of a unit's account is detected,
4. guidelines to ensure compliance with applicable state or federal law,
5. guidelines on what is and is not suitable for posting on a unit's account, and
6. methods to limit indecent or obscene content on a unit's account.

By July 1, 2022, the bill requires each law enforcement unit to adopt and maintain a written policy that meets or exceeds the model policy's standards.

By law and under the bill, "social media" is an electronic medium where users may create and view user-generated content, such as uploaded or downloaded videos or photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, or instant messages (CGS § 9-601). Additionally, "law

enforcement unit” is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime. Lastly, “police officers” are sworn members of an organized local police department or the State Police; appointed constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties; special police officers appointed under law (e.g., those appointed to investigate public assistance fraud); or any members of a law enforcement unit who perform police duties (CGS § 7-294a).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 11 (03/18/2021)