



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6597**

January Session, 2021



**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCREDITATION, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, MENTAL HEALTH, DATA STORAGE SERVICES AND TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-294ee of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) [Until December 31, 2024, the] The Police Officer Standards and  
4 Training Council, established under section 7-294b, and the  
5 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection or the  
6 commissioner's designee, shall jointly develop, adopt and revise, as  
7 necessary, minimum standards and practices for the administration,  
8 [and] management and operation of law enforcement units, as defined  
9 in section 7-294a. Such minimum standards and practices shall be based  
10 upon standards established by the International Association of Chiefs of  
11 Police and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement  
12 Agencies, Inc., and shall include, but need not be limited to, standards  
13 and practices regarding bias-based policing, use of force, response to  
14 crimes of family violence, use of body-worn recording equipment,  
15 complaints that allege misconduct by police officers, use of electronic  
16 defense weapons, eyewitness identification procedures, notifications in  
17 death and related events and pursuits by police officers and compliance

18 with the guidance issued by the council pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
19 subsection (g) of section 7-294d regarding reporting procedures to be  
20 followed by chief law enforcement officers for certificate suspension,  
21 cancellation or revocation. The minimum standards and practices shall  
22 be divided into three tiers, known as tier one, tier two and tier three. Tier  
23 one shall consist of minimum standards and practices designed to  
24 protect law enforcement units from liability, enhance the delivery of  
25 services and improve public confidence in law enforcement units. Tier  
26 two shall consist of minimum standards and practices for the  
27 administration, management and operation of law enforcement units.  
28 Tier three shall consist of higher minimum standards and practices for  
29 the administration, management and operation of law enforcement  
30 units. The council shall post [such] the minimum standards and  
31 practices of each tier on the council's Internet web site and disseminate  
32 [such] the minimum standards and practices of each tier to law  
33 enforcement units. The council and commissioner or the commissioner's  
34 designee shall jointly develop a process to review a law enforcement  
35 unit's compliance with [such] the minimum standards and practices of  
36 each tier and issue a certificate of compliance with [law enforcement]  
37 the minimum standards and practices of tier one, tier two or tier three,  
38 as the case may be, to a law enforcement unit that meets or exceeds  
39 [such] the minimum standards and practices of such tier.

40 (b) On and after January 1, [2019] 2022, and until December 31, [2024]  
41 2023, each law enforcement unit shall adopt and maintain (1) the  
42 minimum standards and practices of tier one developed by the council  
43 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) a higher level of  
44 accreditation standards developed by the council or the Commission on  
45 Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

46 (c) On and after January 1, 2023, and until December 31, 2024, each  
47 law enforcement unit shall adopt and maintain (1) the minimum  
48 standards and practices of tier two developed by the council pursuant  
49 to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) a higher level of accreditation  
50 standards developed by the council or the Commission on Accreditation

51 for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

52 [(c)] (d) On and after January 1, 2025, each law enforcement unit shall  
53 [obtain and maintain accreditation] adopt and maintain (1) the  
54 minimum standards and practices of tier three developed by the council  
55 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) a higher level of  
56 accreditation standards developed by the Commission on Accreditation  
57 for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

58 (e) If a law enforcement unit fails to [obtain] adopt or maintain [such  
59 accreditation] the minimum standards and practices or a higher level of  
60 accreditation standards developed by the council or the Commission on  
61 Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., in accordance with  
62 the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this subsection, the  
63 council shall work with the law enforcement unit to [obtain] assist such  
64 unit to adopt and maintain [such] the minimum standards and practices  
65 or the higher level of accreditation standards.

66 (f) If a law enforcement unit fails to comply with the guidance issued  
67 by the council pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 7-  
68 294d regarding reporting procedures to be followed by chief law  
69 enforcement officers for certificate suspension, cancellation or  
70 revocation, (1) the council may recommend to the Office of Policy and  
71 Management, and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
72 may order, an appropriate penalty in the form of the withholding of  
73 state funds from such law enforcement unit, and (2) the council may  
74 revoke the certificate of compliance with the minimum standards and  
75 practices of tier one, tier two or tier three, as the case may be, issued  
76 pursuant to this section.

77 [(d)] (g) No civil action may be brought against a law enforcement  
78 unit for damages arising from the failure of the law enforcement unit to  
79 [(1)] adopt and maintain [such] the minimum standards and practices  
80 or a higher level of accreditation standards developed by the council or  
81 the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc,  
82 pursuant to [subsection] subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section.

83 [, or (2) obtain and maintain accreditation by the Commission on  
84 Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., pursuant to  
85 subsection (c) of this section.]

86 Sec. 2. Subdivision (22) of subsection (a) of section 7-294d of the  
87 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
88 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

89 (22) (A) [Until December 31, 2024, to] To develop, adopt and revise,  
90 as necessary, comprehensive accreditation standards for the  
91 administration and management of law enforcement units, to grant  
92 accreditation to those law enforcement units that demonstrate their  
93 compliance with such standards and, at the request and expense of any  
94 law enforcement unit, to conduct such surveys as may be necessary to  
95 determine such unit's compliance with such standards; and (B) [on and  
96 after January 1, 2025,] to work with any law enforcement unit that has  
97 failed to [obtain] adopt or maintain [accreditation from] the minimum  
98 standards and practices or a higher level of accreditation standards  
99 developed by the council or the Commission on Accreditation for Law  
100 Enforcement Agencies, Inc., pursuant to section 7-294ee, as amended by  
101 this act;

102 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 7-291d of the general statutes is  
103 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
104 *passage*):

105 (a) (1) No law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, shall  
106 discharge, discipline, discriminate against or otherwise penalize a police  
107 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who is employed by such law  
108 enforcement unit solely because the police officer (A) seeks or receives  
109 mental health care services, [or] including such services as a result of a  
110 behavioral health assessment conducted pursuant to section 7-291e, or  
111 (B) surrenders his or her firearm, ammunition or electronic defense  
112 weapon used in the performance of the police officer's official duties to  
113 such law enforcement unit during the time the police officer receives  
114 mental health care services.

115       (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to a police  
116 officer who [(1)] (A) seeks or receives mental health care services to  
117 avoid disciplinary action by such law enforcement unit, or [(2)] (B)  
118 refuses to submit himself or herself to an examination as provided in  
119 subsection (b) of this section.

120       Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Administrative  
121 Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency Services  
122 and Public Protection, shall study and make recommendations  
123 regarding ways to lower the costs incurred by municipal police  
124 departments for digital data storage devices or services, as defined in  
125 section 29-6d of the general statutes. Such study shall examine, at a  
126 minimum, (1) the feasibility of, and costs associated with, expanding the  
127 storage system used by the Department of Emergency Services and  
128 Public Protection or building a new storage system to provide digital  
129 data storage devices or services for municipal police departments, (2)  
130 compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section  
131 1-200 of the general statutes, if a municipal police department stores  
132 data from the recordings made by body-worn recording equipment on  
133 a state-owned storage system, (3) cost-sharing arrangements with  
134 municipal police departments that use a state-owned storage system  
135 that consider a specific cost per police officer and police departments in  
136 large municipalities and distressed municipalities, as defined in section  
137 32-9p of the general statutes, and (4) any issues associated with a  
138 municipal police department transferring data from one storage system  
139 to a state-owned storage system.

140       (b) Not later than February 1, 2022, the Commissioner of  
141 Administrative Services shall submit, in accordance with the provisions  
142 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, its findings and  
143 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
144 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and  
145 security.

146       Sec. 5. Section 4a-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
147 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

148 (a) The Commissioner of Administrative Services may join with  
149 federal agencies, other state governments, political subdivisions of this  
150 state or nonprofit organizations in cooperative purchasing plans when  
151 the best interests of the state would be served thereby.

152 (b) The state, through the Commissioner of Administrative Services,  
153 may purchase equipment, supplies, materials and services from a  
154 person who has a contract to sell such property or services to other state  
155 governments, political subdivisions of this state, nonprofit  
156 organizations or public purchasing consortia, in accordance with the  
157 terms and conditions of such contract.

158 (c) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, in conjunction with  
159 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and within  
160 available appropriations, shall make known to the chief executive  
161 officer of each municipality the existence of cooperative plans for the  
162 purchase of recycled paper.

163 (d) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, in conjunction  
164 with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall  
165 enter into a cooperative purchasing plan with each municipality that  
166 seeks to enter into such plan for the purchase of digital data storage  
167 devices or services, as defined in section 29-6d, for use by municipal  
168 police departments.

169 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2022,  
170 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, after consultation  
171 with persons with mental or physical disabilities and advocates on  
172 behalf of such persons, shall develop a training curriculum for police  
173 officers regarding interactions with persons who have mental or  
174 physical disabilities.

175 (b) On and after October 1, 2022, each police basic or review training  
176 program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and  
177 Training Council, the Division of State Police within the Department of  
178 Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal police

179 department shall include the training curriculum developed pursuant  
180 to subsection (a) of this section.

181 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 7-277c of the general statutes is  
182 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
183 *passage*):

184 (c) The Office of Policy and Management shall distribute grants-in-  
185 aid to any municipality pursuant to this section during the fiscal years  
186 ending June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022. Any such grant-in-aid shall be  
187 for up to fifty per cent of the cost of such purchase of body-worn  
188 recording equipment, digital data storage devices or services or  
189 dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, [if the municipality is a  
190 distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p, or up to thirty per  
191 cent of the cost of such purchase if the municipality is not a distressed  
192 municipality,] provided the costs of such digital data storage services  
193 covered by a grant-in-aid shall not be for a period of service that is  
194 longer than one year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-294ee
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	7-294d(a)(22)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	7-291d(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	4a-53
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	7-277c(c)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a) and (f), "subdivision (1) of" was inserted for accuracy.

**PS** Joint Favorable Subst.