



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 135**

February Session, 2022



**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS.**

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 Section 7-294ee of the general statutes is repealed and the  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. Not later than January 1, 2023, the council  
22 shall, within available appropriations, divide the minimum standards  
23 and practices into three state-accreditation tiers, to be known as tier one,  
24 tier two and tier three. Tier one shall consist of minimum standards and  
25 practices designed to protect law enforcement units from liability,  
26 enhance the delivery of services and improve public confidence in law  
27 enforcement units. Tier two shall consist of minimum standards and  
28 practices for the administration, management and operation of law  
29 enforcement units. Tier three shall consist of higher minimum standards  
30 and practices for the administration, management and operation of law  
31 enforcement units. The council shall post [such] the minimum standards  
32 and practices of each tier on the council's Internet web site and  
33 disseminate [such] the minimum standards and practices of each tier to  
34 law enforcement units. The council and commissioner or the  
35 commissioner's designee shall jointly develop a process to review a law  
36 enforcement unit's compliance with [such] the minimum standards and  
37 practices of each tier and issue a certificate of compliance with [law  
38 enforcement] the minimum standards and practices of tier one, tier two  
39 or tier three, as the case may be, to a law enforcement unit that meets or  
40 exceeds [such] the minimum standards and practices of such tier.

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

47 (c) On and after January 1, 2023, and until December 31, 2023, each  
48 law enforcement unit shall (1) be certified, at a minimum, as meeting the  
49 requirements for state-accreditation tier one developed by the council  
50 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) meet a higher level of  
51 accreditation standards developed by the Commission on Accreditation

52 for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

53 (d) On and after January 1, 2024, and until December 31, 2025, each  
54 law enforcement unit shall (1) be certified, at a minimum, as meeting the  
55 requirements for state-accreditation tiers one and two developed by the  
56 council pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (2) meet a higher  
57 level of accreditation standards developed by the Commission on  
58 Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

59 ~~[(c)]~~ (e) On and after January 1, [2025] 2026, each law enforcement  
60 unit shall [obtain and maintain accreditation] (1) be certified as meeting  
61 the requirements for state-accreditation tiers one, two and three  
62 developed by the council pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or  
63 (2) meet a higher level of accreditation standards developed by the  
64 Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

65 (f) If a law enforcement unit fails to obtain or maintain [such  
66 accreditation] the appropriate certification for a state-accreditation tier  
67 or tiers or the higher level of accreditation standards developed by the  
68 Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., as  
69 required by the provisions of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this  
70 section, the council shall work with the law enforcement unit to obtain  
71 and maintain such certification or accreditation standards.

72 (g) If a law enforcement unit fails to comply with the guidance issued  
73 by the council pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 7-  
74 294d regarding reporting procedures to be followed by chief law  
75 enforcement officers for certificate suspension, cancellation or  
76 revocation, the council may revoke the certificate of compliance with the  
77 appropriate state-accreditation tier or tiers, as the case may be, issued  
78 pursuant to this section.

79 ~~[(d)]~~ (h) No civil action may be brought against a law enforcement  
80 unit for damages arising from the failure of the law enforcement unit to  
81 (1) adopt and maintain such minimum standards and practices or a  
82 higher level of accreditation standards pursuant to subsection (b) of this

83 section, or (2) obtain and maintain the appropriate certificate of  
84 compliance with the appropriate state-accreditation tier or tiers or  
85 accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement  
86 Agencies, Inc., [pursuant to subsection (c) of this section] as required by  
87 subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

88 Sec. 2. Subdivision (22) of subsection (a) of section 7-294d of the 2022  
89 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
90 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

91 (22) (A) [Until December 31, 2024, to] To develop, adopt and revise,  
92 as necessary, comprehensive accreditation standards, and designation  
93 of such standards as state-accreditation tiers one, two and three, for the  
94 administration and management of law enforcement units, to grant  
95 accreditation to those law enforcement units that demonstrate their  
96 compliance with such standards and, at the request and expense of any  
97 law enforcement unit, to conduct such surveys as may be necessary to  
98 determine such unit's compliance with such standards; and (B) on and  
99 after January 1, [2025,] 2023 to work with any law enforcement unit that  
100 has failed to obtain or maintain [accreditation from] its certification of  
101 compliance with the appropriate tier or tiers or a higher level of  
102 accreditation standards developed by the council or the Commission on  
103 Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., pursuant to section  
104 7-294ee, as amended by this act;

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)

**PS** Joint Favorable Subst.

**APP** Joint Favorable