



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 217***

LCO No. 1682



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT  
WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE AND REQUIRING  
DEVELOPMENT OF A REPORTING SYSTEM, BEST PRACTICES AND  
A MODEL INVESTIGATION POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS  
REGARDING HATE CRIMES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2022*):

4 (d) The commissioner shall establish such divisions as the  
5 commissioner deems necessary for effective operation of the state police  
6 force and consistent with budgetary allotments, a Criminal Intelligence  
7 Division and a state-wide organized crime investigative task force to be  
8 engaged throughout the state for the purpose of preventing and  
9 detecting any violation of the criminal law, and a Hate Crimes  
10 Investigative Unit for the purposes described in section 2 of this act. The  
11 head of the Criminal Intelligence Division shall be of the rank of  
12 sergeant or above. The head of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit shall  
13 be of the rank of sergeant or above, and shall serve as a member of the

14 State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, established under section  
15 51-279f, as amended by this act. The head of the state-wide organized  
16 crime investigative task force shall be a police officer.

17 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) The Commissioner of  
18 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall assign to the Hate  
19 Crimes Investigative Unit, established under subsection (d) of section  
20 29-4 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, such personnel as  
21 may be required to fulfill the duties of this section. The unit:

22 (1) Shall seek to prevent and detect any criminal activity or suspected  
23 criminal activity in the state that is a violation of sections 46a-58, 53-37,  
24 53-37a, 53-37b, 53a-61aa, subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-  
25 62, subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-181c, section 53a-181j,  
26 53a-181k or 53a-181l of the general statutes;

27 (2) Shall compile, monitor and analyze data regarding any criminal  
28 activity or suspected criminal activity described in subdivision (1) of this  
29 subsection; and

30 (3) Shall share data and information with, and may provide  
31 additional assistance to, any law enforcement unit to assist in the  
32 investigation of any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity  
33 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

34 (b) Not later than November 1, 2022, the Police Officer Standards and  
35 Training Council, in consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency  
36 Services and Public Protection and the State-Wide Hate Crimes  
37 Advisory Council, shall:

38 (1) Develop, and disseminate to all law enforcement units, a  
39 standardized form or other reporting system to be used by a law  
40 enforcement unit in making an initial notification or report to the Hate  
41 Crimes Investigative Unit as required by subsection (c) of this section;

42 (2) Develop best practices to facilitate the continued sharing of  
43 information among and between the Hate Crimes Investigative and law

44 enforcement units;

45 (3) Take such actions as are necessary to inform the public of its right  
46 to report any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity as  
47 described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and how to  
48 make such reports, including, but not limited to, considering the  
49 establishment of state and municipal telephone hotlines and web sites  
50 that can be used to make reports; and

51 (4) Develop a model policy for the investigation of hate crimes.

52 (c) On and after January 1, 2023, each law enforcement unit shall, not  
53 later than fourteen days after receiving notification, information or a  
54 complaint of any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity  
55 described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, provide a  
56 notice and report to the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit regarding such  
57 criminal activity or suspected criminal activity using the standardized  
58 form or other reporting system developed pursuant to subdivision (1)  
59 of subsection (b) of this section. The law enforcement unit shall continue  
60 to share information regarding the investigation of such criminal  
61 activity or suspected criminal activity with the Hate Crimes  
62 Investigative Unit according to the best practices developed pursuant to  
63 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

64 (d) For purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" has the same  
65 meaning as in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

66 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 51-279f of the general statutes is  
67 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
68 *2022*):

69 (a) There shall be a State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council within  
70 the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, for administrative purposes  
71 only. Members of the council shall include (1) the following, or their  
72 designees: The Chief State's Attorney; the Chief Public Defender; the  
73 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection; the  
74 president of the Connecticut Bar Association; the president of the

75 George W. Crawford Black Bar Association; the president of the South  
 76 Asian Bar Association of Connecticut; the president of the Connecticut  
 77 Asian Pacific American Bar Association; the president of the  
 78 Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association; and the president of the  
 79 Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; (2) the head of the Hate Crimes  
 80 Investigative Unit, established pursuant to subsection (d) of section 29-  
 81 4, as amended by this act; and [(2)] (3) no more than thirty appointed by  
 82 the Governor who are representatives of organizations committed to  
 83 decreasing hate crimes, improving diversity awareness or representing  
 84 the interests of groups within the state protected by sections 53a-181j to  
 85 53a-181l, inclusive.

86 Sec. 4. Section 29-7m of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
 87 *January 1, 2023*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	29-4(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	51-279f(a)
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) create a Hate Crimes Investigative Unit within the State Police and establish its duties; (2) require development of a reporting system, best practices and a model investigation policy for law enforcement units regarding hate crimes; (3) establish time requirements for law enforcement units to report hate crimes to the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit; and (4) designate the head of the unit as a member of the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council.

*[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.]*