



Substitute House Bill No. 5420

Public Act No. 22-64

AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF AND SERVICES FOR POLICE OFFICERS, CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS REGARDING POLICE TRAINING AND CERTAIN REPORTS.

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 7-291d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

(2) The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to a police officer who [(1)] (A) seeks or receives mental health care services to avoid disciplinary action by such law enforcement unit, or [(2)] (B)

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refuses to submit himself or herself to an examination as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2023, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall (1) after consultation with persons with mental or physical disabilities and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with persons who have mental or physical disabilities, and (2) after consultation with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.

(b) On and after October 1, 2023, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal police department shall include the training curriculum developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study the mental health needs of law enforcement officers. The task force shall (1) examine the mental health needs of law enforcement officers, (2) list the programs that serve or could be available to serve the mental health needs of officers, (3) identify barriers to accessing such programs, such as issues regarding confidentiality and disclosure of information regarding treatment, and (4) make recommendations for policies, practices and legislation to address the mental health needs of officers, encourage officers to access programs and eliminate barriers to accessing programs.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,

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who shall be a representative of the Honor Wellness Center or a nonprofit organization providing mental health treatment for police officers;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement or a nonprofit organization that provides training to police officers on mental health issues;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of a labor organization representing sworn members of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a police officer from a municipal police department;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Police Officers Association of Connecticut;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a police officer from a municipal police department;

(7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee;

(8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(9) The chairperson of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, or the chairperson's designee; and

(10) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a municipal police chief representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and one of whom shall be a representative of a labor

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organization representing sworn members of municipal police departments.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut, in consultation with the United Way of Connecticut, shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall include a study of a representative sample of

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9-1-1 dispatch call data and an analysis of the percentage of such calls that would be more appropriately directed to the 2-1-1 Infoline program operated by the United Way of Connecticut.

Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, established pursuant to section 7-294b of the general statutes, shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall:

(1) (A) Provide the implementation status of the interactive electronic computer platform described in subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 7-294d of the general statutes, and (B) describe any criteria used by the council to determine when it is appropriate to allow officers to complete certified review training using such platform;

(2) Determine whether any other training required of police officers after initial certification may be conducted through such an electronic computer platform or through any other on-line or remote format without compromising the quality of such training; and

(3) Make recommendations for any legislation necessary to implement the council's findings.

Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall include an examination of the Community and Law Enforcement for Addiction Recovery project, including an analysis of whether such project has been successful in achieving its goals, and recommendations as to improvements to such project and whether it

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should be expanded throughout the state.

Sec. 7. Section 7-294r of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2023*)

Approved May 23, 2022