



Substitute Senate Bill No. 217

Public Act No. 22-9

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:

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 Subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

(d) The commissioner shall establish such divisions as the commissioner deems necessary for effective operation of the state police force and consistent with budgetary allotments, a Criminal Intelligence Division and a state-wide organized crime investigative task force to be engaged throughout the state for the purpose of preventing and detecting any violation of the criminal law, and a Hate Crimes Investigative Unit for the purposes described in section 2 of this act. The head of the Criminal Intelligence Division shall be of the rank of sergeant or above. The head of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit shall be of the rank of sergeant or above, and shall serve as a member of the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, established under section 51-279f, as amended by this act. The head of the state-wide organized crime investigative task force shall be a police officer.

Substitute Senate Bill No. 217

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Develop best practices to facilitate the continued sharing of information among and between the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit and law enforcement units;

Substitute Senate Bill No. 217

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

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

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

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

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

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

Substitute Senate Bill No. 217

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

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

Approved May 10, 2022