



House of Representatives

File No. 801

General Assembly

January Session, 2023

(Reprint of File No. 369)

Substitute House Bill No. 6840
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 19, 2023

***AN ACT EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE OFFICER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-294b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

3 (a) There shall be a Police Officer Standards and Training Council
4 which shall be within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
5 Protection. [Until December 31, 2020, the council shall consist of the
6 following members appointed by the Governor: (1) A chief
7 administrative officer of a town or city in Connecticut; (2) the chief
8 elected official or chief executive officer of a town or city in Connecticut
9 with a population under twelve thousand which does not have an
10 organized police department; (3) a member of the faculty of The
11 University of Connecticut; (4) eight members of the Connecticut Police
12 Chiefs Association who are holding office or employed as chief of police
13 or the highest ranking professional police officer of an organized police

14 department of a municipality within the state; (5) the Chief State's
15 Attorney; (6) a sworn municipal police officer whose rank is sergeant or
16 lower; and (7) five public members.]

17 (b) [On and after January 1, 2021, the] The council shall consist of the
18 following members:

19 (1) The chief elected official or chief executive officer of a town or city
20 within the state with a population in excess of fifty thousand, appointed
21 by the Governor;

22 (2) The chief elected official or chief executive officer of a town or city
23 within the state with a population of fifty thousand or less, appointed
24 by the Governor;

25 (3) A member of the faculty of an institution of higher education in
26 the state who has a background in criminal justice studies, appointed by
27 the Governor;

28 (4) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
29 holding office or employed as the chief of police, the deputy chief of
30 police or a senior ranking professional police officer of an organized
31 police department of a municipality within the state with a population
32 in excess of one hundred thousand, appointed by the Governor;

33 (5) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
34 holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest ranking
35 professional police officer of an organized police department of a
36 municipality within the state with a population in excess of sixty
37 thousand but not exceeding one hundred thousand, appointed by the
38 Governor;

39 (6) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
40 holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest ranking
41 professional police officer of an organized police department of a
42 municipality within the state with a population in excess of thirty-five
43 thousand but not exceeding sixty thousand, appointed by the Governor;

44 (7) A sworn municipal police officer from a municipality within the
45 state with a population exceeding fifty thousand, appointed by the
46 Governor;

47 (8) A sworn municipal police officer from a municipality within the
48 state with a population not exceeding fifty thousand, appointed by the
49 Governor;

50 (9) The commanding officer of the Connecticut State Police Academy;

51 (10) A member of the public, who is a person with a physical
52 disability or an advocate on behalf of persons with physical disabilities,
53 appointed by the Governor;

54 (11) A victim of crime or the immediate family member of a deceased
55 victim of crime, appointed by the Governor;

56 (12) A medical professional, appointed by the Governor;

57 (13) The Chief State's Attorney;

58 (14) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association or the
59 person holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest
60 ranking professional police officer of an organized police department
61 within the state, appointed by the speaker of the House of
62 Representatives;

63 (15) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association or the
64 person holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest
65 ranking professional police officer of an organized police department
66 within the state, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

67 (16) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
68 holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest ranking
69 professional police officer of an organized police department of a
70 municipality within the state with a population not exceeding thirty-five
71 thousand, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

72 (17) A member of the public who is a justice-impacted person,
73 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

74 (18) A member of the public who is a justice-impacted person,
75 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; [and]

76 (19) A member of the public who is a person with a mental disability
77 or an advocate on behalf of persons with mental disabilities, appointed
78 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

79 (20) A sworn police officer who is not in a command position within
80 such officer's law enforcement unit, who is appointed by the
81 chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
82 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security; and

83 (21) A sworn police officer who is not in a command position within
84 such officer's law enforcement unit, who is appointed by the minority
85 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of
86 Representatives.

87 (c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
88 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent-in-charge in
89 Connecticut or their designees shall be voting ex-officio members of the
90 council. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or
91 who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any
92 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the council. Any
93 nonpublic member of the council shall immediately, upon the
94 termination of such member's holding the office or employment that
95 qualified such member for appointment, cease to be a member of the
96 council. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. A
97 member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired
98 term of the member whom such member is to succeed in the same
99 manner as the original appointment. The Governor shall appoint a
100 chairperson and the council shall appoint a vice-chairperson and a
101 secretary from among the members.

102 (d) Membership on the council shall not constitute holding a public

103 office. No member of the council shall be disqualified from holding any
104 public office or employment by reason of his appointment to or
105 membership on the council nor shall any member forfeit any such office
106 or employment by reason of his appointment to the council,
107 notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, special act or
108 local law, ordinance or charter.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	7-294b

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) by two members, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state as the council members of POST are not compensated.

House "A" changes the appointing authority for certain members of POST and strikes sections 2 and 3 of the underlying bill, resulting in no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6840 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL, REQUIRING GUIDELINES REGARDING BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND REQUIRING A REPORT REGARDING CONDUCT THAT UNDERMINES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning January 1, 2024, this bill increases the membership of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) from 21 members to 23 by adding two new members, one appointed by the Public Safety and Security Committee chairs and one by the Senate and House minority leaders. The appointees must be sworn police officers who are not in command positions within their law enforcement units.

Under current law, the council consists of 21 members: 11 appointed by the governor, six legislative appointments, and four serving ex-officio (the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner and FBI special agent-in-charge for Connecticut, or their designees, and the chief state's attorney and Connecticut State Police Academy's commanding officer).

As under existing law, appointed members serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority for a term coterminous with their appointing authority (CGS § 4-1a). The law additionally deems a member to have resigned from POST if he or she misses three consecutive meetings or 50% of the meetings held during any calendar year.

*House Amendment "A" removes (1) an exception for exigent circumstances to state law's general requirement that police officers use body-worn recording equipment (i.e., body cameras) while interacting

with the public and (2) a requirement for DESPP and POST to submit a report on police officer conduct that undermines public confidence in law enforcement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 2 (03/16/2023)