



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 379**

January Session, 2023

Senate Bill No. 972

*Senate, April 3, 2023*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. GASTON of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN POLICE OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-294v of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Not later than July 1, 2023, the Police Officer Standards and  
4 Training Council shall (1) after consultation with persons with mental  
5 or physical disabilities and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop  
6 a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with  
7 persons who have mental or physical disabilities, and (2) after  
8 consultation with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind  
9 and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop a training curriculum  
10 for police officers regarding interactions with persons who are deaf,  
11 hard of hearing or deafblind. On and after July 1, 2024, the training  
12 curriculum shall include crisis intervention strategies for police officers  
13 to use when interacting with individuals with mental illness in crisis.

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

20 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) Not later than July 1, 2024, the  
 21 Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall (1) examine (A)  
 22 programs and strategies used in the state or other jurisdictions through  
 23 which police officers collaborate with social workers, and (B) the  
 24 evaluation submitted pursuant to section 18 of public act 20-1 of the July  
 25 special session; and (2) issue guidance to law enforcement units that  
 26 includes recommendations of how police officers may collaborate with  
 27 social workers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	7-294v
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

**PS**      *Joint Favorable*

*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.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to update its training curriculum on interactions with persons with mental or physical disabilities and issue guidance on programs and strategies for police collaboration with social workers, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities, as POST has the expertise to meet the bill's requirements.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 972*****AN ACT CONCERNING CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN POLICE OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS.*****SUMMARY**

Under existing law, each police basic or review training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), the State Police, or a municipal police department must include POST-developed curricula for police officers on interacting with people who (1) have mental or physical disabilities and (2) are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. This bill requires POST to, by July 1, 2024, add to these curricula crisis intervention strategies for police officers to use when interacting with people with mental illness in crisis.

The bill also builds off social worker feasibility evaluations that were required by Section 18 of PA 20-1, July Special Session. Under the act, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and each municipal police department had to submit to POST an evaluation of the feasibility and potential impact of social workers responding to calls for assistance (either remotely or in person) or joining a police officer on calls where a social worker's experience and training could provide help. The bill requires POST to, by July 1, 2024, (1) examine these evaluations and any programs and strategies used in Connecticut or other jurisdictions on police officer and social worker collaborations; and (2) issue guidance to law enforcement units with recommendations on how police officers may collaborate with social workers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)