

# Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6840

AN ACT EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL, REVISING THE PROCESS TO APPEAL COUNCIL DECISIONS, REQUIRING GUIDELINES REGARDING BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND REQUIRING A REPORT REGARDING CONDUCT THAT UNDERMINES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN LAW

**Title:** ENFORCEMENT.

**Vote Date:** 3/16/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/9/2023

**File No.:** 369

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Safety and Security Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

There has been a raise in concern of the safety of both police officers and the public. This bill would require guidelines to be followed whenever an officer is without a body recording device, to ensure the safety of anyone involved. This bill also creates more positions that would need to be filled within the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. This portion of the bill would help distribute tasks within the council and allow for more people to be eligible for these positions.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Brian Anderson, Legislative Director for Council 4 AFSCME**

On behalf of Council 4 AFSCME, Brian supports this bill and its intentions. The support is carried through all four sections of the bill. It is stated that this bill would create a balance within the council. The testimony strongly recommends that section one has an equal number of positions between police chiefs and police union presidents to avoid any bias on the board.

## **Marshall Segar, Attorney- Marshall Law LLC**

Marshall is in **support** of this bill due to its step in the direction of eliminating an unbalanced board. While supporting this bill, there is also a suggestion to create an appeals process in order to have this bill be followed smoothly

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

#### **Ct Police Chiefs Association**

The association **opposes** this bill since it would be going against the current legislation that holds police accountable. It is explained that when an officer commits a crime, there are current laws set in place to handle the charges and process, however this bill would cause complications for the way it is currently addressed.

#### **James McGovern**

McGovern **opposes** this bill and states that the minority population needs to be represented on a greater level. It is expressed that there should be a nomination of a person who exhibits diversity, both in age and race.

#### **Keith Mello, Chief of Police- Milford Police Dept.**

Mello **opposes** section 2 (3) for the fact that it adds more steps that will put a hold on the process. Mello explains that this bill would create unnecessary steps, making the current time be extended even further, and create a delay as well as eliminate the opportunity to have a diverse group within the council.

**Reported by: Kaitlin Hall**

**Date: 03/27/2023**