



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Proposed Bill No. 5943**

LCO No. 2467



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

REP. LINEHAN, 103rd Dist.

REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.

REP. FAZZINO, 83rd Dist.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS FIRST RESPONDER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AND DESIGNATING 9-1-1 DISPATCHERS AS FIRST RESPONDERS.**

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

1 That (1) a working group be established to study the recruitment and  
2 retention of first responders, which shall include (A) an examination of  
3 the effects on recruitment and retention of firefighters at municipal fire  
4 departments and police officers at municipal police departments from  
5 the provision of a defined contribution retirement plan for such  
6 firefighters and officers instead of the provision of a defined benefit  
7 plan, and the overall cost effectiveness of such plans, (B) an examination  
8 of how the state can support community policing efforts and improve  
9 public perception of first responders, (C) development of a plan to  
10 integrate first responder recruitment as a career choice in high schools  
11 and colleges, (D) an evaluation, in conjunction with qualified mental  
12 health professionals, of the checklist used for post-traumatic stress  
13 disorder in workers compensation claims, including an evaluation of

14 the effectiveness and subjectivity of such checklist, (E) an evaluation of  
15 how the understaffing of municipal police departments effects overtime  
16 costs and crime prevention, and (F) an examination of the staffing levels  
17 of state corrections officers and recommendations to address  
18 recruitment and retention concerns; and (2) the general statutes be  
19 amended to provide that telecommunicators, as defined in section 28-30  
20 of the general statutes, are classified in the same manner as first  
21 responders.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a working group to address first responder recruitment and retention and designate 9-1-1 dispatchers as first responders.