



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6572

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OF MINORS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (d) The commissioner shall establish such divisions as the
5 commissioner deems necessary for effective operation of the state
6 police force and consistent with budgetary allotments, a Criminal
7 Intelligence Division, [and] a state-wide organized crime investigative
8 task force to be engaged throughout the state for the purpose of
9 preventing and detecting any violation of the criminal law, [and] a
10 Hate Crimes Investigative Unit for the purposes described in section
11 29-7d, and, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025,
12 an investigative task force relating to the online exploitation and
13 sexual abuse of minors for the purposes described in section 2 of this
14 act. The head of the Criminal Intelligence Division shall be of the rank
15 of sergeant or above. The head of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit
16 shall be of the rank of sergeant or above, and shall serve as a member
17 of the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, established under
18 section 51-279f. The head of the state-wide organized crime

19 investigative task force shall be a police officer. The head of the
20 investigative task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual
21 abuse of minors shall be of the rank of sergeant or above.

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the fiscal years ending
23 June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the Commissioner of Emergency
24 Services and Public Protection shall assign to the investigative task
25 force relating to the online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors,
26 established under subsection (d) of section 29-4 of the general statutes,
27 as amended by this act, such personnel as may be required to fulfill the
28 duties of this section. The task force shall utilize existing resources and
29 processes to:

30 (1) Investigate any suspected criminal activity and arrest any
31 individual who commits any criminal activity in the state in which
32 such individual uses the Internet to sexually abuse, sexually exploit or
33 sexually assault a minor online or in-person, or attempt to sexually
34 abuse, sexually exploit or sexually assault a minor online or in person;

35 (2) Compile, monitor and analyze data regarding any criminal
36 activity or suspected criminal activity described in subdivision (1) of
37 this subsection; and

38 (3) Share data and information with, and, at the discretion of the
39 head of the task force, provide additional assistance to, any law
40 enforcement unit to assist in the investigation of any criminal activity
41 or suspected criminal activity described in subdivision (1) of this
42 subsection.

43 (b) Not later than November 1, 2023, the Police Officer Standards
44 and Training Council, in consultation with the Commissioner of
45 Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall:

46 (1) Develop, and disseminate to all law enforcement units, a
47 standardized form or other reporting system to be used by a law
48 enforcement unit in making an initial notification or report to the
49 investigative task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual

50 abuse of minors as required by subsection (c) of this section;

51 (2) Develop best practices to facilitate the continued sharing of
52 information among and between the investigative task force relating to
53 the online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors and law
54 enforcement units;

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

61 (4) Develop a model policy for the investigation of the online sexual
62 exploitation and abuse of minors.

63 (c) Each law enforcement unit shall, not later than fourteen days
64 after receiving notification, information or a complaint of any criminal
65 activity or suspected criminal activity described in subdivision (1) of
66 subsection (a) of this section, provide a notice and report to the
67 investigative task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual
68 abuse of minors regarding such criminal activity or suspected criminal
69 activity using the standardized form or other reporting system
70 developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section.
71 The law enforcement unit shall continue to share information
72 regarding the investigation of such criminal activity or suspected
73 criminal activity with the investigative task force relating to the online
74 exploitation and sexual abuse of minors according to the best practices
75 developed pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

76 (d) Not later than January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026, the
77 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall submit
78 an annual report regarding the activity and results of the investigative
79 task force relating to the online exploitation and sexual abuse of
80 minors, as well as a recommendation as to whether the investigative

81 task force should be extended, to the joint standing committees of the
82 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
83 public safety and judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of
84 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	29-4(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a)(3), "and may provide" was changed to "and, at the discretion of the head of the task force, provide", for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*