



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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2023*):

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

18 of the state-wide organized crime investigative task force shall be a
19 police officer. The head of the investigative task force relating to the
20 online exploitation and sexual abuse of minors shall be of the rank of
21 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 force
25 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 such
32 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 this
37 subsection; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

84 (e) For purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" has the same
85 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

de", for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

PS *Joint Favorable*