



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 421**

LCO No. 2733



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
2 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall  
3 develop a state-wide campaign to promote the law enforcement  
4 profession. In developing such campaign, the commissioner may  
5 consult with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and any other  
6 entities the commissioner deems appropriate. The commissioner shall  
7 use a variety of media, including social media, as part of such campaign.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Department of Emergency  
9 Services and Public Protection shall employ a full-time cadet or explorer  
10 program coordinator, who shall coordinate and oversee police cadet or  
11 explorer programs, implement state standards and a best practices  
12 guide for such programs and encourage establishment and expansion  
13 of such programs throughout the state.

14 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year  
15 thereafter, the department shall allocate five thousand dollars to each

16 municipal police department that operates, or plans to operate in the  
17 following fiscal year, a cadet or explorer program.

18       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
19 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Emergency  
20 Services and Public Protection shall establish a grant program to  
21 reimburse municipal police departments for the cost of basic training of  
22 police officers. Not later than October 1, 2024, the department shall post  
23 in a conspicuous place on the department's Internet web site a  
24 description of the grant program, including, but not limited to,  
25 eligibility criteria and the application process for the program. A  
26 municipal police department shall apply for such grants on such forms  
27 and in such manner as determined by the department.

28       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the purposes of this section,  
29 "academy" and "basic training" have the same meanings as provided in  
30 section 7-294a of the general statutes. The Police Officer Standards and  
31 Training Council shall examine criminal justice courses offered by  
32 colleges and universities in the state, and determine (1) whether any  
33 such courses are equivalent to courses required as part of basic training  
34 at the academy, and (2) under what conditions an individual attending  
35 the academy for basic training need not complete a course at the  
36 academy because the individual completed an equivalent course at a  
37 college or university in the state. Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
38 council shall submit a report of its examination and determination, in  
39 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
40 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
41 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security.

42       Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is  
43 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
44 *2024*):

45       (b) (1) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law  
46 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person  
47 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section

48 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve  
49 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification  
50 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection  
51 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection, the  
52 council may establish other qualifications for the employment of police  
53 officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these qualifications. No  
54 law enforcement unit shall deny employment as a police officer to a  
55 prospective employee, and the council shall not deny certification under  
56 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section to an individual, solely on  
57 the basis of such prospective employee's or such individual's status as a  
58 noncitizen of the United States, provided such prospective employee or  
59 such individual is lawfully admitted for permanent residence of the  
60 United States under federal law and regulations.

61       (2) The certification of any police officer who is not employed by a  
62 law enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of two years, unless  
63 such officer is on leave of absence, shall be considered lapsed. Upon  
64 reemployment as a police officer, such officer shall apply for  
65 recertification in a manner provided by the council, provided such  
66 recertification process requires the police officer to submit to a urinalysis  
67 drug test that screens for controlled substances, including, but not  
68 limited to, anabolic steroids, and receive a result indicating no presence  
69 of any controlled substance not prescribed for the officer. The council  
70 shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of satisfactory  
71 completion of a program or course of instruction in another state or, if  
72 the applicant is a veteran or a member of the armed forces or the  
73 National Guard, as part of training during service in the armed forces,  
74 that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in this state,  
75 provided such applicant passes an examination or evaluation as  
76 required by the council. For the purposes of this [section] subdivision,  
77 "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in  
78 section 27-103.

79       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
80 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Emergency  
81 Services and Public Protection shall provide a grant to each of the top

82 ten most populous municipalities in the state in order to increase the  
83 salaries of police officers serving such municipalities. A municipality  
84 receiving such a grant shall not use the grant for any purpose other than  
85 increasing the salaries of such officers.

86 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
87 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the  
88 Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a  
89 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
90 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
91 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
92 report shall include recommendations for a schedule of bonuses to be  
93 awarded to individuals upon entering service as a police officer, as  
94 defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and to be awarded to  
95 such officers based on years of service, in order to encourage individuals  
96 to begin and continue careers as police officers. The department and  
97 council may consult with chiefs of municipal police departments and  
98 any other individuals or entities in developing such recommendations.

99 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
100 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The  
101 University of Connecticut and the Police Officer Standards and Training  
102 Council shall jointly develop a career pathway to assist police officers in  
103 obtaining higher education degrees. Such pathway shall include a  
104 schedule of credits that officers may receive at each constituent unit of  
105 higher education, as defined in section 10a-1 of the general statutes, for  
106 the training such officers received in order to be certified, and maintain  
107 their certification, as police officers pursuant to section 7-294d of the  
108 general statutes, as amended by this act. Such boards and council shall  
109 promote such pathway in order to encourage police officers to earn  
110 higher education degrees.

111 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Board of Regents for Higher  
112 Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and  
113 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a  
114 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general

115 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
116 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
117 report shall include the pathway and schedule developed pursuant to  
118 subsection (a) of this section and a description of plans to promote such  
119 pathway.

120 Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is  
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
122 *2024*):

123 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of  
124 the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child  
125 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to  
126 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in  
127 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted  
128 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time  
129 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the  
130 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in  
131 section 27-103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in  
132 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in  
133 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military  
134 service academy, which veteran has been accepted for admission to such  
135 institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is  
136 accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the  
137 state sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at the end of the regular  
138 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number  
139 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to  
140 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to  
141 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating  
142 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut State  
143 Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said  
144 academy offered in coordination with a regional community-technical  
145 college which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active  
146 member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has  
147 been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's  
148 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled

149 or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time  
150 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, (6) for any  
151 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or  
152 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in  
153 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal  
154 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in  
155 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child  
156 or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of  
157 this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was  
158 killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and  
159 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, [and] (9) for any resident of  
160 the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who  
161 was killed in action while performing active military duty with the  
162 armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and  
163 who was a resident of this state, (10) for a police officer, as defined in  
164 section 7-294a, who has been employed as such an officer in the state for  
165 not less than two years, and (11) for any dependent child of a police  
166 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as such an  
167 officer in the state for not less than five years. If any person who receives  
168 a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also  
169 receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver  
170 shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement.  
171 Veterans and members of the National Guard described in subdivision  
172 (5) of this subsection shall be given the same status as students not  
173 receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional  
174 community-technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
175 section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state"  
176 includes domicile for less than one year.

177 Sec. 10. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the 2024 supplement to the  
178 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
179 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

180 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees for  
181 undergraduate and graduate degree programs at the Connecticut State  
182 University System (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the

183 armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or  
184 to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after  
185 January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to such  
186 institution and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted  
187 for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of  
188 subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-  
189 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,  
190 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall  
191 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,  
192 which veteran has been accepted for admission to such institution and  
193 is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for  
194 admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two  
195 years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to such  
196 institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting  
197 program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are  
198 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those  
199 residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the  
200 course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space  
201 available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for  
202 any student attending the Connecticut Police Academy who is enrolled  
203 in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination  
204 with the university which accredits courses taken in such program, (5)  
205 for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard  
206 who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant  
207 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B)  
208 is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time  
209 or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting  
210 program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined  
211 in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)  
212 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire  
213 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in  
214 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state  
215 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist  
216 victim who was a resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a  
217 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the

218 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,  
219 [and] (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or  
220 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing  
221 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or  
222 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state, (10) for a  
223 police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as  
224 such an officer in the state for not less than two years, and (11) for any  
225 dependent child of a police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has  
226 been employed as such an officer in the state for not less than five years.  
227 If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the  
228 provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement  
229 from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such  
230 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National  
231 Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the  
232 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for  
233 courses at Connecticut state universities. Notwithstanding the  
234 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in  
235 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

236 Sec. 11. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the 2024 supplement to  
237 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
238 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

239 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees for  
240 any undergraduate or graduate degree program at The University of  
241 Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed  
242 forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have  
243 been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January  
244 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to The University  
245 of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time such child is  
246 accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions  
247 of subsection (f) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-  
248 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,  
249 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall  
250 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,  
251 which veteran has been accepted for admission to said institution and is



252 domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for admission  
253 to said institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age  
254 or older who has been accepted for admission to said institution,  
255 provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or  
256 (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the  
257 course a sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible  
258 for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which  
259 such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such  
260 course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any active member  
261 of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been  
262 certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee  
263 as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or  
264 accepted for admission to said institution on a full-time or part-time  
265 basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, (5) for  
266 any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a,  
267 or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined  
268 in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal  
269 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in  
270 the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state who is the dependent  
271 child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a  
272 resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a resident of the state  
273 who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of  
274 Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, [and] (8) for  
275 any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse  
276 of a person who was killed in action while performing active military  
277 duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after September  
278 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state, (9) for a police officer, as  
279 defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as such an officer in  
280 the state for not less than two years, and (10) for any dependent child of  
281 a police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as  
282 such an officer in the state for not less than five years. If any person who  
283 receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this  
284 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,  
285 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational  
286 reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National Guard

287 described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the same  
288 status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses  
289 at The University of Connecticut. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
290 section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state"  
291 includes domicile for less than one year.

292       Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) For the fiscal year ending  
293 June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Office of Higher  
294 Education, in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Services  
295 and Public Protection, shall administer a police officer loan  
296 reimbursement grant program for individuals who have been employed  
297 as a police officer, as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, in  
298 the state for not less than ten years.

299       (b) Any individual who satisfies the eligibility requirements  
300 prescribed by the office may receive an annual grant for reimbursement  
301 of federal or state educational loans (1) in an amount up to ten per cent  
302 of such individual's federal or state educational loans but not exceeding  
303 five thousand dollars in any year, and (2) for a period not to exceed ten  
304 years. Such individual shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made  
305 while such person is employed as a police officer in the state.

306       (c) Individuals may apply to the Office of Higher Education for grants  
307 under this section at such time and in such manner as the executive  
308 director of the Office of Higher Education prescribes.

309       (d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section  
310 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for  
311 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

312       (e) The Office of Higher Education may accept gifts, grants and  
313 donations, from any source, public or private, for the police officer loan  
314 reimbursement grant program.

315       Sec. 13. Section 12-81 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
316 is amended by adding subdivision (83) as follows (*Effective October 1,*  
317 *2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*

318 2024):

319 (NEW) (83) Property to the amount of ten thousand dollars belonging  
320 to, or held in trust for, any resident of this state who is a police officer,  
321 as defined in section 7-294a, and resides in a distressed municipality,  
322 as defined in section 32-9p.

323 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Connecticut Housing  
324 Finance Authority shall enhance assistance available to police officers  
325 who seek to purchase a house as such officer's principal residence in the  
326 community served by such officer. Such assistance shall prioritize first-  
327 time homebuyers and include mortgage assistance, down payment  
328 assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any  
329 mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable  
330 portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

331 Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) The State Retirement Commission shall  
332 (1) study deferred retirement option plans and make recommendations  
333 for development of such a plan that is (A) administered by the state, and  
334 (B) permits any police officer, as defined in section 7-294a of the general  
335 statutes, in the state to participate in the plan, and (2) study the types  
336 and levels of retirement medical benefits provided to such officers and  
337 the spouses of such officers in the state and make recommendations  
338 regarding the provision of such benefits. The commission may consult  
339 with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
340 municipal police departments and any other entities the commission  
341 deems appropriate. Not later than January 1, 2025, the commission shall  
342 report the results of such studies and any recommendations, in  
343 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
344 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
345 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security.

346 Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024, the  
347 Governor shall enter into negotiations with the employee organization  
348 that is the representative of state police officers to seek amendments to  
349 any collective bargaining agreement to establish conditions under

350 which a state police officer who retired from service as such an officer  
351 may return to such service and (1) resume earning credit toward  
352 retirement benefits, in the same manner as such officer earned such  
353 credit prior to such officer's retirement, and (2) be eligible for earning  
354 the same benefits as such officer was eligible for prior to such officer's  
355 retirement.

356       Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each collective bargaining  
357 agreement entered into on or after July 1, 2024, or amended on or after  
358 July 1, 2024, between a municipality and an employee organization that  
359 is the representative of police officers in the municipality shall permit  
360 police officers who retire and remain certified by the Police Officer  
361 Standards and Training Council pursuant to section 7-294d of the  
362 general statutes, as amended by this act, to return to part-time or full-  
363 time employment as a police officer with the municipality while  
364 collecting such officer's pension, to the maximum extent permissible  
365 under state and federal law and regulations.

366       Sec. 18. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
367 study the volunteer police auxiliary force authorized under section 29-  
368 22 of the general statutes and make recommendations for improving the  
369 organization of such auxiliary force and maximizing the services that  
370 may be provided by auxiliary state police and municipal police officers.

371       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

372       (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

373       (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

374       (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
375 Representatives;

376       (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

377       (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
378 Representatives;

379 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

380 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
381 or the commissioner's designee; and

382 (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor.

383 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
384 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
385 of the General Assembly.

386 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
387 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
388 be filled by the appointing authority.

389 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
390 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
391 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
392 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
393 days after the effective date of this section.

394 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
395 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
396 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

397 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report  
398 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
399 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
400 safety and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
401 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
402 submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

403 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section,  
404 "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-  
405 294a of the general statutes.

406 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Department of  
407 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall develop a pilot program

408 to provide law enforcement units with unmanned aerial vehicles to  
409 respond to requests for service, assist such units in assessing the dangers  
410 and needs at the scene where service is requested prior to the arrival of  
411 a police officer and enhance the safety of police officers and the services  
412 such units provide to the public. In identifying units for participation in  
413 the pilot program, the department shall give priority to units that would  
414 most benefit from such program, including those with reduced staffing  
415 levels.

416 (c) Not later than October 1, 2024, the department shall (1) develop  
417 eligibility criteria to be used in selecting among applicants for  
418 participation in the pilot program, (2) develop application forms and  
419 deadlines, (3) post in a conspicuous location on the department's  
420 Internet web site a description of the pilot program that includes, but is  
421 not limited to, such criteria, forms and deadlines, and (4) notify law  
422 enforcement units of the opportunity to apply for participation in such  
423 program.

424 (d) (1) Not later than January 1, 2026, each law enforcement unit  
425 participating in the pilot program pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
426 section shall submit a report to the department describing the unit's use  
427 of unmanned aerial devices, their impact on the unit's ability to provide  
428 services to the public and any recommendations for the continuation of  
429 or improvements to such pilot program.

430 (2) Not later than July 1, 2026, the department shall submit a report,  
431 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
432 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
433 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report  
434 shall include (A) information on the law enforcement units that applied  
435 for participation in the pilot program, which units were chosen for  
436 participation and the reasons for choosing such units, (B) a summary of  
437 the reports submitted by units pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
438 subsection and an analysis of the results of the pilot program, and (C)  
439 recommendations regarding the continuation or expansion of the pilot  
440 program, funding needs and any necessary legislation.

441       Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section,  
442 "law enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the same meanings as  
443 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

444       (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Department of  
445 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, within available  
446 appropriations, administer a pilot program to enhance programs and  
447 initiatives that address the mental health needs of police officers at one  
448 or more law enforcement units with more than three hundred police  
449 officers. Such pilot program may include, but need not be limited to, the  
450 development or enhancement of peer-to-peer support programs,  
451 programs that train officers to help themselves and fellow officers deal  
452 with mental health issues associated with their jobs, programs that  
453 employ a psychologist or other mental health professionals within the  
454 unit to assist officers with their mental health needs, employee  
455 assistance programs and any other programs and resources that may  
456 address the mental health needs of police officers.

457       (c) Not later than October 1, 2024, the department shall (1) develop  
458 eligibility criteria to be used in selecting among applicants for such pilot  
459 program, (2) develop application forms and deadlines, (3) post in a  
460 conspicuous location on the department's Internet web site a description  
461 of the pilot program that includes, but is not limited to, such criteria,  
462 forms and deadlines, and (4) notify each law enforcement unit with  
463 more than three hundred police officers of the opportunity to apply for  
464 participation in such program.

465       (d) (1) Not later than January 1, 2026, each law enforcement unit  
466 participating in the pilot program shall submit a report to the  
467 department describing the programs, services and resources provided  
468 pursuant to the pilot program and evaluating the impact of such  
469 programs, services and resources on the mental health of the police  
470 officers employed by such unit. In evaluating such impact, each unit  
471 shall provide a recommendation as to whether such programs, services  
472 or resources should be continued and whether any modifications could  
473 improve the impact of such programs, services or resources on the

474 mental health of police officers.

475 (2) Not later than July 1, 2026, the department shall submit a report,  
 476 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
 477 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
 478 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report  
 479 shall include (A) information on the number of applications for the pilot  
 480 program that were received and the law enforcement units chosen for  
 481 participation, (B) an analysis of the programs, services and resources  
 482 provided by units and their effectiveness in addressing the mental  
 483 health needs of officers, (C) a list of programs, services and resources  
 484 identified as best practices that could be implemented by units across  
 485 the state to address the mental health needs of officers, and (D)  
 486 recommendations regarding the pilot program under this section,  
 487 funding for specific programs, services and resources to address the  
 488 mental health needs of police officers and any necessary legislation.

489 Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 490 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services and  
 491 Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June  
 492 30, 2025, for the state-wide campaign developed pursuant to section 1  
 493 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section



Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-81(83)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To enhance recruitment and retention of police officers.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*