



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5201



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. GASTON, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 421

File No. 223

Cal. No. 169

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
4 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall  
5 consult with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, institutions of  
6 higher education in this state and any other entities the commissioner  
7 deems appropriate to develop, coordinate and implement a plan to  
8 promote the law enforcement profession. In implementing such plan,  
9 the commissioner shall use a variety of media, including social media.

10 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section,  
11 "academy" and "basic training" have the same meanings as provided in  
12 section 7-294a of the general statutes.

13 (b) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall examine

14 criminal justice courses offered by colleges and universities in the state,  
15 and determine (1) whether any such courses are equivalent to courses  
16 required as part of basic training at the academy, and (2) under what  
17 conditions an individual attending the academy for basic training need  
18 not complete a course at the academy because the individual completed  
19 an equivalent course at a college or university in the state. Not later than  
20 January 1, 2025, the council shall submit a report of such examination  
21 and determination, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
22 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
23 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and  
24 security.

25 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Police Officer Standards and  
26 Training Council shall establish a pilot program with the University of  
27 New Haven to permit an individual who attends the academy for basic  
28 training to complete such training by taking (1) courses related to legal  
29 issues at such university, and (2) the remaining courses at the academy.  
30 Not later than January 1, 2026, the council shall submit a report, in  
31 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
32 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
33 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report  
34 shall include (A) a description of the pilot program; (B) an analysis of  
35 the impact of such program on police recruitment and training  
36 procedures and resources; and (C) recommendations on whether to  
37 terminate, continue, revise or expand such program.

38 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is  
39 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
40 *2024*):

41 (b) (1) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law  
42 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person  
43 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section  
44 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve  
45 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification  
46 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection

47 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection, the  
48 council may establish other qualifications for the employment of police  
49 officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these qualifications. No  
50 law enforcement unit shall deny employment as a police officer to a  
51 prospective employee, and the council shall not deny certification under  
52 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section to an individual, solely on  
53 the basis of such prospective employee's or such individual's status as a  
54 noncitizen of the United States, provided such prospective employee or  
55 such individual is lawfully admitted for permanent residence of the  
56 United States under federal law and regulations.

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

75 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
76 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the  
77 Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a  
78 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
79 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
80 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such

81 report shall include recommendations for a schedule of bonuses to be  
82 awarded to individuals upon entering service as a police officer, as  
83 defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and to be awarded to  
84 such officers based on years of service, in order to encourage individuals  
85 to begin and continue careers as police officers. The department and  
86 council may consult with chiefs of municipal police departments and  
87 any other individuals or entities in developing such recommendations.

88 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
89 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The  
90 University of Connecticut and the Police Officer Standards and Training  
91 Council shall jointly develop a career pathway to assist police officers in  
92 obtaining higher education degrees. Such pathway shall include a  
93 schedule of credits that officers may receive at each constituent unit of  
94 higher education, as defined in section 10a-1 of the general statutes, for  
95 the training such officers received in order to be certified, and maintain  
96 their certification, as police officers pursuant to section 7-294d of the  
97 general statutes, as amended by this act. Such boards and council shall  
98 promote such pathway in order to encourage police officers to earn  
99 higher education degrees.

100 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Board of Regents for Higher  
101 Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and  
102 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a  
103 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
104 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
105 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
106 report shall include the pathway and schedule developed pursuant to  
107 subsection (a) of this section and a description of plans to promote such  
108 pathway.

109 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
110 study the volunteer police auxiliary force authorized under section 29-  
111 22 of the general statutes and make recommendations for improving the  
112 organization of such auxiliary force and maximizing the services that  
113 may be provided by auxiliary state police and municipal police officers.

- 114 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 115 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 116 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 117 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
118 Representatives;
- 119 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 120 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
121 Representatives;
- 122 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 123 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
124 or the commissioner's designee; and
- 125 (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor.
- 126 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
127 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
128 of the General Assembly.
- 129 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
130 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
131 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 132 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
133 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
134 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
135 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
136 days after the effective date of this section.
- 137 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
138 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
139 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

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

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

149 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
150 shall investigate ways to develop and enhance programs and initiatives  
151 that address the mental health needs of police officers. Such  
152 investigation shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination  
153 of peer-to-peer support programs, programs that train officers to help  
154 themselves and fellow officers deal with mental health issues associated  
155 with their jobs, programs that employ a psychologist or other mental  
156 health professionals within a unit to assist officers with their mental  
157 health needs, employee assistance programs and any other programs  
158 and resources that may address the mental health needs of police  
159 officers. In conducting such investigation, the department shall consult  
160 with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the  
161 Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Connecticut Police  
162 Chiefs Association, law enforcement units throughout the state,  
163 employee organizations that represent police officers and any other  
164 entities the commissioner deems appropriate.

165 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall submit a  
166 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
167 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
168 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
169 report shall include the results of such investigation, a list of programs,  
170 services and resources identified as best practices that could be  
171 implemented by units across the state to address the mental health  
172 needs of officers, and any recommendations for legislation."

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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section