



House of Representatives

File No. 662

General Assembly

February Session, 2024 **(Reprint of File No. 172)**

House Bill No. 5283
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 3, 2024

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF PAROLE
OFFICERS AS PEACE OFFICERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (9) of section 53a-3 of the 2024 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

4 (9) "Peace officer" means a member of the Division of State Police
5 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or
6 an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in
7 the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising
8 authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial
9 marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a
10 conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section
11 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a
12 special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a, 29-18b or 29-
13 19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction

14 authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a
 15 correctional institution or facility, a parole officer, as defined in section
 16 31-294k, in the performance of the duties of a parole officer, any
 17 investigator in the investigations unit of the office of the State Treasurer,
 18 an inspector of motor vehicles in the Department of Motor Vehicles,
 19 who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e,
 20 inclusive, a United States marshal or deputy marshal, any special agent
 21 of the federal government authorized to enforce the provisions of Title
 22 21 of the United States Code, or a member of a law enforcement unit of
 23 the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of
 24 Connecticut created and governed by a memorandum of agreement
 25 under section 47-65c who is certified as a police officer by the Police
 26 Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to
 27 7-294e, inclusive;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	53a-3(9)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill adds parole officers to the definition of peace officer which allows parole officers additional powers and protections¹ resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ These include making an arrest without a warrant, using a hand-held cellphone while driving, being considered a peace officer under the state's Blue Alert system, and using a search warrant to obtain a motor vehicles event data recorder.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5283 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF PAROLE OFFICERS AS PEACE OFFICERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the definition of "peace officer" to include parole officers when performing their duties. Parole officers are Department of Correction (DOC) employees who supervise inmates in the community after being released from prison on parole or another prison release program.

Under current law, parole officers have certain, but not all, powers and protections of peace officers. For example, parole officers, in certain situations, may use deadly or physical force in making arrests or preventing escape, and if someone were to assault them, the perpetrator would be subject to enhanced penalties for assaulting certain public safety personnel (CGS §§ 53a-22 & -167c).

By designating them as peace officers, the bill specifically allows parole officers, when performing their duties, to do the following, among other things:

1. make arrests in their jurisdiction without a warrant (a) of a person apprehended while committing an offense or (b) on the speedy information of others (CGS § 54-1f);
2. use a hand-held cellphone while driving and performing official duties within the scope of their employment (CGS § 14-296aa);
3. be considered peace officers under the state's Blue Alert system,

which can be used to apprehend anyone suspected of killing or seriously injuring a peace officer or to locate a missing officer (CGS § 29-1k);

4. obtain a motor vehicle's event data recorder under a search warrant (CGS § 14-164aa); and
5. be considered peace officers subjected to a substantial risk of bodily injury at the scene of 1st degree arson (CGS § 53a-111).

*House Amendment "A" limits the underlying bill's designation of parole officers as peace officers to when the parole officers are doing their duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Peace Officers

By law, the following individuals are designated peace officers: state and local police, Division of Criminal Justice inspectors, state marshals exercising statutory powers, judicial marshals performing their duties, conservation or special conservation officers, constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties, appointed special policemen, adult probation officers, DOC officials authorized to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, investigators in the State Treasurer's Office, certified Department of Motor Vehicles inspectors, U.S. marshals and deputy marshals, U.S. special agents authorized to enforce federal food and drug laws, and certified police officers of a law enforcement unit created and governed under a state-tribal memorandum (CGS § 53a-3(9)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/12/2024)