



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4916



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
SEN. MARONEY, 14th 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 July 1, 2024*) (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.

20 (c) The council shall consult with colleges and universities in the
21 state, including, but not limited to, the University of Bridgeport and the
22 University of New Haven, to investigate the feasibility of conducting a
23 pilot program with one or more of such colleges or universities that
24 would permit an individual who attends the academy for basic training
25 to complete such training by taking (1) courses related to legal issues at
26 such college or university, and (2) the remaining courses at the academy.

27 (d) Not later than January 1, 2025, the council shall submit a report of
28 its examination and determination pursuant to subsection (b) of this
29 section, its investigation pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and
30 any recommendations for legislation necessary to implement a pilot
31 program pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, in accordance with
32 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
33 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
34 matters relating to public safety and security.

35 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is
36 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
37 *2024*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

106 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
107 study the volunteer police auxiliary force authorized under section 29-
108 22 of the general statutes and make recommendations for improving the
109 organization of such auxiliary force and maximizing the services that
110 may be provided by auxiliary state police and municipal police officers.

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

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

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>	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