



Acts Affecting First Responders

By: Duke Chen, Principal Analyst
June 18, 2018 | 2018-R-0145

Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (Public Acts) affecting first responders enacted during the 2018 regular session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports are, or soon will be, available on OLR's website: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/actsaffecting.asp>.

Each summary indicates the Public Act (PA) number and effective date. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden.

Complete summaries of Public Acts are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/olrpassums.asp>. Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library, House Clerk's Office, or General Assembly's website: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>.

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Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel

EMS Data

Existing law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to report to the EMS Advisory Board on specified EMS call data categorized by municipality, such as the total number of calls by each ambulance service and the call response times. A new law requires the commissioner to report the data annually, starting by December 31, 2018.

It also requires the commissioner, with the board's recommendation, to adopt for use in trauma data collection the most recent version of specified national standards and guidelines ([PA 18-168, § 17](#), effective October 1, 2018).

Opioid Antagonist Program

A new law authorizes prescribers and pharmacists authorized to prescribe naloxone to enter into an agreement with a law enforcement agency, EMS provider, government agency, or community health organization concerning the distribution and administration of opioid antagonists. Among other things, the new law requires the prescribers and pharmacists to provide training to the individuals who will distribute or administer opioid antagonists under such an agreement ([PA 18-166, § 3](#), effective July 1, 2018).

Opioid Overdose Reporting

Under a new law, on and after January 1, 2019, any hospital or EMS personnel that treats a patient for an opioid overdose must report such overdose to DPH. Starting by January 1, 2020, DPH must provide the data to the municipal or district health department that has jurisdiction over the location where the overdose occurred, or, if the location is unknown, the location in which the hospital or EMS personnel treated the patient, as DPH, in its discretion, deems necessary to develop preventive initiatives. Under the act, such data must remain confidential in accordance with existing law for records provided to DPH ([PA 18-166, § 5](#), effective July 1, 2018).

Firefighters

Voluntown Fire Truck Purchase

A new law requires the Department of Administrative Services commissioner to provide \$250,000 from the Facilities Surplus Property account to the town of Voluntown for the purchase of a fire truck for use on municipal and state-owned land ([PA 18-81, § 54](#), effective July 1, 2018).

Police

Body-worn Recording Equipment Task Force

[PA 17-225](#) established a task force to examine the use of body-worn recording equipment by state and local police in accordance with the law. A new law expands the task force's charge by requiring it to examine under what circumstances, if any, (1) a police officer should be permitted to review a recording from such equipment before giving a formal statement about his or her or another officer's use of force and (2) members of the public or alleged victims or their family members should be permitted to review a recording from such equipment during an investigation or following an allegation that a police officer used excessive force. The new law also extends the task force's reporting deadline from February 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019 ([PA 18-187](#), effective upon passage).

Child Care Center Emergency Contact Information

A new law requires child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes to give their contact information to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), rather than the police department with jurisdiction of the location, and requires OEC to share this information through a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to be used in an emergency notification system that notifies the provider when the safety or welfare of the children at the centers or homes may be endangered ([PA 18-172](#), § 6, effective July 1, 2018).

Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) Appointing a Police Officer

Under a new law, the DESPP commissioner must commission, upon CAA's application, one person to serve, as a sworn police officer with arrest powers, property, business, and airplanes owned or controlled by the authority ([PA 18-142](#), § 2, effective upon passage).

Contracting Fingerprinting Services

A new law allows the DESPP commissioner to enter into agreements with independent contractors to electronically take and transmit fingerprints and demographic information to the State Police Bureau of Identification for processing criminal history record checks ([PA 18-161](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2018).

Dominant Aggressor in Family Violence Complaints

A new law (1) requires a peace officer (including police), in responding to a family violence complaint made by two or more opposing parties, to arrest the person the officer determines is the dominant aggressor and (2) gives the officer immunity from civil liability based on these actions. It establishes the factors a peace officer must consider in determining who the dominant aggressor

is, such as the need to protect domestic violence victims, whether one person acted to defend him- or herself or a third person, and the relative degree of any injury. The act does not prohibit dual arrests, but discourages them when appropriate.

The law also expands certain police training programs to include training on the factors for determining a dominant aggressor in a family violence case ([PA-18-5](#), effective January 1, 2019).

Law Enforcement Recording Equipment Grant Program Expansion

The legislature enacted a new law that expands the types of equipment eligible for reimbursement, within available resources, under a law enforcement recording equipment grant program administered by the Office of Policy and Management secretary.

The law (1) expands the program to include reimbursing municipalities that replace dashboard cameras purchased before December 31, 2010, with those with a remote recorder in FYs 17 and 18, (2) requires municipalities that are not reimbursed for such replacement dashboard cameras to be reimbursed, within available resources, for up to 50% of the costs for cameras purchased in FY 19, and (3) extends the deadline, from the end of FY 17 to the end of FY 18, to purchase digital data storage devices or services eligible for reimbursement ([PA 18-107](#), effective upon passage).

Minimum Standards and Practices for Administering and Managing Law Enforcement

Under a new law, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) and the DESPP commissioner, within available appropriations, must jointly develop, adopt, and revise, as necessary, minimum standards and practices for administering and managing law enforcement units. Beginning January 1, 2019, the new law requires those units to adopt and maintain (1) the minimum standards and practices developed by POST or (2) a higher level of accreditation standards developed by POST or the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

The new law requires POST and the DESPP commissioner to develop a process for reviewing compliance, including issuing a certificate of compliance. Additionally, it prohibits a civil action from being brought against a law enforcement unit for damages arising from failure to adopt and maintain the minimum standards and practices or a higher level of accreditation standards ([PA 18-161](#), § 2, effective January 1, 2019).

Police Escorts During Transport of Certain Housing Structures

A new law requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a one-year pilot program (beginning July 1, 2018) to allow vehicles to transport certain oversized loads (e.g., motor homes or modular homes) on limited access highways (other than I-95) during daylight hours. DOT may grant permits for such travel only if (1) the transporting vehicle has three police vehicle escorts and (2) the travel does not obstruct DOT's or any municipality's construction or maintenance activities. Under the law, the police escort is responsible for assuring compliance with the permit granted by DOT ([PA 18-167](#), § 10, effective upon passage).

Reporting of Police Pursuits

A new law requires POST to develop and promulgate standardized forms by December 1, 2018, for (1) reporting each police pursuit and (2) submitting annual reports on such pursuits.

Beginning January 1, 2019, the law requires the DESPP commissioner and local police chiefs to require each police officer who engages in a pursuit to report the pursuit using POST's standard form. Beginning by January 31, 2020, it requires the DESPP commissioner and local police chiefs to submit an annual report to POST regarding pursuits by their police officers.

By April 30, 2020, and annually thereafter, POST must compile, analyze, and summarize the annual reports and submit a consolidated police pursuit report with any legislative recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee ([PA 18-161](#), § 3, effective October 1, 2018).

Reports of Fatal Accidents

A new law requires the police or other investigators of fatal motor vehicle accidents to refer the case to the state's attorney in the district where the accident took place if they are unable to determine the accident's cause, and it allows the state's attorney to refer the matter to the State Police for review and further investigation. For fatal accidents, this new law also requires the accident report to include, if possible and practicable, a conclusion as to the accident's cause ([PA 18-3](#), effective October 1, 2018).

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