PA 19-108—HB 6376
Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS AS PEACE OFFICERS

SUMMARY: This act expands a statutory definition of "peace officer" (see BACKGROUND) to include motor vehicle inspectors in the Department of Motor Vehicles who have received Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) certification. Under prior law, motor vehicle inspectors had many, but not all, of the powers and protections afforded to these peace officers.

Under the act, POST-certified motor vehicle inspectors, as peace officers, are specifically allowed to, among other things:

1. be considered peace officers for purposes of the state's Blue Alert system, which can be used to apprehend anyone suspected of killing or seriously injuring a peace officer or locate any officer who is missing (CGS § 29-1k);
2. obtain a motor vehicle's event data recorder pursuant to a search warrant (CGS § 14-164aa); and
3. be considered peace officers subjected to a substantial risk of bodily injury at the scene of first degree arson (CGS § 53a-111).

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

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, Department of Correction officials authorized to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, investigators in the State Treasurer's Office, 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)).