



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 465

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7069

House of Representatives, April 2, 2025

The Committee on Insurance and Real Estate reported through REP. WOOD of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS OF POLICE OFFICERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-291e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Administrative head of each law
4 enforcement unit" means the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
5 Public Protection, the board of police commissioners, the chief of police,
6 superintendent of police or other authority having charge of a law
7 enforcement unit; and (2) "behavioral health assessment" means a
8 behavioral health assessment of a police officer conducted by a board-
9 certified psychiatrist, psychologist licensed pursuant to the provisions
10 of chapter 383 or a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to the
11 provisions of chapter 383b, who has experience diagnosing and treating
12 post-traumatic stress disorder.

13 (b) On and after January 1, 2021, the administrative head of each law

14 enforcement unit shall require each police officer employed by such law
15 enforcement unit to submit, as a condition of continued employment, to
16 a periodic behavioral health assessment conducted by a psychiatrist,
17 psychologist or clinical social worker approved by the union that
18 represents police officers of such law enforcement unit. Each police
19 officer employed by a law enforcement unit shall submit to a periodic
20 behavioral health assessment not less than once every five years. In
21 carrying out the provisions of this section, the administrative head of
22 each law enforcement unit may stagger the scheduling of such
23 behavioral health assessments in a manner that results in approximately
24 twenty per cent of the total number of police officers in the law
25 enforcement unit receiving behavioral health assessments each year
26 over a five-year period. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
27 subsection, the administrative head of a law enforcement unit may
28 waive the requirement that a police officer submit to a periodic
29 behavioral health assessment when the police officer has submitted
30 written notification of his or her decision to retire from the law
31 enforcement unit to such administrative head, provided the effective
32 date of such retirement is not more than six months beyond the date on
33 which such periodic behavioral health assessment is scheduled to occur.

34 (c) In addition to the behavioral health assessments required
35 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the administrative head of
36 each law enforcement unit may, for good cause shown, require a police
37 officer to submit to an additional behavioral health assessment
38 conducted by a psychiatrist, psychologist or clinical social worker
39 approved by the union that represents police officers of such law
40 enforcement unit. The administrative head of a law enforcement unit
41 requiring that a police officer submit to an additional behavioral health
42 assessment shall provide the police officer with a written statement
43 setting forth the good faith basis for requiring the police officer to
44 submit to an additional behavioral health assessment. Upon receiving
45 such written statement, the police officer shall, not later than thirty days
46 after the date of the written request, submit to such behavioral health
47 assessment.

48 (d) A law enforcement unit that hires any person as a police officer,
49 who was previously employed as a police officer by another law
50 enforcement unit or employed as a police officer in any other
51 jurisdiction, may require such new hire to submit to a behavioral health
52 assessment conducted by a psychiatrist, psychologist or clinical social
53 worker approved by the union that represents police officers of such law
54 enforcement unit not later than six months after the date of hire. When
55 determining whether such new hire shall be required to submit to a
56 behavioral health assessment, the law enforcement unit shall give due
57 consideration to factors that include, but are not limited to, the date on
58 which such new hire most recently submitted to a behavioral health
59 assessment.

60 (e) [Any person conducting] (1) No psychiatrist, psychologist or
61 clinical social worker that conducts a behavioral health assessment of
62 any police officer, in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall
63 access or request any medical record of a police officer through any
64 electronic health record system as part of such behavioral health
65 assessment of such police officer. For the purposes of this subdivision,
66 "electronic health record system" has the same meaning as provided in
67 section 17b-59e.

68 (2) Any such psychiatrist, psychologist or clinical social worker
69 approved by the union that represents police officers of such law
70 enforcement unit to conduct a behavioral health assessment of [a] such
71 police officer pursuant to the provisions of this section shall only
72 provide a written copy of the results of such assessment to [the] such
73 police officer and to the administrative head of the law enforcement unit
74 employing [the] such police officer. Such written results shall not
75 include an evaluation of such police officer's physical fitness for duty.

76 (f) The results of any behavioral health assessment conducted in
77 accordance with the provisions of this section and any record or note
78 maintained by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker in
79 connection with the conducting of such assessment shall not be subject
80 to disclosure under section 1-210 and shall not be made part of a medical

81 record. Such results shall only be used or shared in accordance with the
82 provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2025	7-291e
-----------	-----------------	--------

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsecs. (b) to (d), inclusive, "such psychiatrist" was changed to "a psychiatrist" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

INS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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, which makes clarifying changes to existing law requiring periodic behavioral health assessments of police officers, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7069*****AN ACT CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS OF POLICE OFFICERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes related to the periodic behavioral health assessment that police officers must generally complete at least once every five years as a condition of continued employment. (By law, officers may be required to submit to an additional assessment for good cause shown or if hired from another unit or jurisdiction.)

Under existing law, the behavioral health assessment must be conducted by a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or licensed clinical social worker who has experience diagnosing and treating post-traumatic stress disorder. The bill requires that these providers conducting the assessment be approved by the union that represents the police officers for that law enforcement unit.

The bill also prohibits the provider who conducts the assessment from:

1. accessing or requesting the police officer's medical records through an electronic health record system as part of the assessment,
2. including an evaluation of the officer's physical fitness for duty in the assessment's written results, and
3. disclosing the results to anyone other than the officer and the law enforcement unit's administrative head.

By law, the assessment results and any records or notes the provider keeps are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information

Act. The bill also prohibits including this information in the officer's medical record and specifies that it can only be used or shared as described above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/13/2025)