



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 527

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7202

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of
2 Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the
3 Police Officer Standards and Training Council, shall establish a project
4 to be known as the social work and law enforcement project to advance
5 the ethical and effective integration of social work services into law
6 enforcement units by preparing social workers, social work students
7 and law enforcement professionals to collaborate in the field of police
8 social work. The project shall be located at Southern Connecticut State
9 University. The objectives of the project shall be to: (1) Educate and train
10 the social work and law enforcement workforce to collaborate by using
11 a model that integrates police and social work, (2) increase community
12 wellness through training, research, education and policy advocacy
13 concerning the integration of police and social work, (3) strengthen the
14 engagement among social workers, law enforcement officers and
15 community members, and (4) promote dialogue concerning diversity,

16 disparities and systemic racism in criminal and juvenile justice settings.
17 For purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" has the same
18 meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

19 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency
20 Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of
21 understanding with Southern Connecticut State University for the
22 purpose of establishing the social work and law enforcement project.
23 Such memorandum shall include, but need not be limited to, a
24 requirement that any use of funding for the project for a purpose other
25 than providing training or education to a police officer shall require the
26 commissioner's written authorization.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Emergency
28 Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Police Officer
29 Standards and Training Council, shall establish a police training center
30 to train and educate police officers in crime scene processing, the
31 collection and analysis of forensic evidence and criminal investigations.
32 The center shall be located at Central Connecticut State University. For
33 purposes of this section, "police officer" has the same meaning as
34 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

35 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency
36 Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of
37 understanding with Central Connecticut State University for the
38 purpose of establishing the police training center. Such memorandum
39 shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that any use of
40 funding for the center for a purpose other than providing training or
41 education to a police officer shall require the commissioner's written
42 authorization.

43 Sec. 3. Section 7-294h of the general statutes is repealed and the
44 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

45 On and after January 1, 2017: (1) Each police basic or field training
46 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
47 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

48 shall provide a minimum of twenty-seven hours of training relative to
49 the handling of juvenile matters which includes, but is not limited to,
50 the following: (A) Techniques for handling incidents involving
51 juveniles; (B) information relative to the processing and disposition of
52 juvenile matters; (C) applicable procedures in the prosecution of cases
53 involving juveniles; (D) information regarding resources of the juvenile
54 justice system in the state; (E) the use of graduated sanctions; (F)
55 techniques for handling trauma; (G) restorative justice practices; (H)
56 adolescent development; (I) risk-assessment and screening tools; (J)
57 emergency mobile psychiatric services; and (K) on and after January 1,
58 [2020] 2026, techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering, that
59 involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive
60 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum
61 for such techniques [is] be made available [at no cost] to the division
62 from (i) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or
63 advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults
64 with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal
65 learning disorder, or (ii) a collaboration of such institutions,
66 professionals or organizations; (2) each police basic or field training
67 program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and
68 Training Council established under section 7-294b or by a municipal
69 police department in the state shall provide a minimum of fourteen
70 hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters as provided
71 in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) each police review training
72 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
73 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, by
74 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under
75 section 7-294b or by a municipal police department in the state shall
76 provide a minimum of one hour of training relative to the handling of
77 juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this section.

78 Sec. 4. Section 7-294v of the general statutes is repealed and the
79 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

80 (a) Not later than July 1, [2023] 2026, the Police Officer Standards and
81 Training Council shall:

82 (1) [after] After consultation with persons with mental or physical
83 disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder,
84 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, and advocates on
85 behalf of such persons, including, but not limited to, institutions of
86 higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations
87 that are concerned with persons with autism spectrum disorder,
88 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, develop a
89 training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with
90 persons who have mental illness or mental or physical disabilities. []
91 Such training curriculum shall include, but need not be limited to, the
92 following topics: (A) The nature of mental illness and mental or physical
93 disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder,
94 cognitive impairment and nonverbal learning disorder; (B) how to
95 identify persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities;
96 and (C) strategies and techniques for handling incidents that involve
97 persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities, including,
98 but not limited to, crisis intervention strategies and deescalation
99 techniques; and

100 (2) [after] After consultation with persons who are deaf, hard of
101 hearing or deafblind and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop
102 a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with
103 persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. [On and after July
104 1, 2024, the training curriculum shall include crisis intervention
105 strategies for police officers to use when interacting with individuals
106 with mental illness in crisis.]

107 (b) On and after October 1, [2023] 2026, each police basic or review
108 training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer
109 Standards and Training Council, the Division of State Police within the
110 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal
111 police department shall include the training curriculum developed
112 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

113 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "basic
114 training", "police officer" and "review training" have the same meanings

115 as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

116 (b) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall conduct
 117 a study of the training programs that police officers are required to
 118 complete pursuant to chapter 104 of the general statutes. Such study
 119 shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1)
 120 mandatory basic training programs, (2) mandatory review training
 121 programs, and (3) how to improve, update and streamline such
 122 mandatory training programs.

123 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the council shall submit a report, in
 124 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 125 on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislation to
 126 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 127 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security.

128 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million one hundred
 129 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency
 130 Services and Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
 131 ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of establishing the social work and
 132 law enforcement project pursuant to section 1 of this act.

133 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million one hundred
 134 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency
 135 Services and Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
 136 ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of establishing the police training
 137 center pursuant to section 2 of this act.

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294h
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294v
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a), "establish the police training center" was changed to "establish a police training center" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

PS *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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	2.2 million	2.2 million
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Constituent Units of Higher Education	OF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund; OF=Other Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes several changes concerning police officer training in the state, results in the following fiscal impacts.

Sections 1 and 2 require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to (1) establish a social work and law enforcement project at Southern Connecticut State University and (2) establish a police training center at Central Connecticut State University. The bill appropriates a total of \$2.2 million dollars for these purposes.

Section 3 allows higher education institutions, health care professionals, or certain advocacy organizations to charge the Division of State Police within DESPP for certain training, which results in a minimal potential revenue gain to the Constituent Units of Higher Education and a potential cost to DESPP, beginning in FY 26, depending on whether and how much these entities charge the State Police for such training.

The bill also makes several changes to the police officer training curriculum, which does not result in a fiscal impact because DESPP can meet these requirements with existing resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to how much the State Police is charged for training.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7202*****AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), to establish a social work and law enforcement project and a police training center. It appropriates \$2.2 million from the General Fund for these purposes.

Additionally, the bill allows those who provide police training on handling incidents involving individuals with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment, or nonverbal learning disorder to charge for the training. It also expands the training curriculum for police officers interacting with people with mental or physical disabilities to, among other things, specifically include the disorders listed above.

Finally, the bill requires POST to conduct a study on the training programs police officers are required to complete under state law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except the autism spectrum, cognitive impairment, or nonverbal learning disorder training provisions are effective January 1, 2026, and the POST training study is effective upon passage.

§§ 1 & 6 — SOCIAL WORK AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

The bill requires DESPP, in consultation with POST, to establish a project to be known as the social work and law enforcement project to advance the ethical and effective integration of social work services into law enforcement units (see BACKGROUND). It does so by preparing social workers, social work students, and law enforcement professionals to collaborate in the field of police social work.

The project must be located at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and the objectives are to:

1. educate and train the social work and law enforcement workforce to collaborate by using a model that integrates police and social work;
2. increase community wellness through training, research, education, and policy advocacy concerning integrating police and social work;
3. strengthen the engagement among social workers, law enforcement officers, and community members; and
4. promote dialogue concerning diversity, disparities, and systemic racism in criminal and juvenile justice settings.

By January 1, 2026, the DESPP commissioner must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SCSU to establish the project. The MOU must include a requirement that any funding for the project for a purpose other than providing training or education to a police officer requires the DESPP commissioner's written authorization.

The bill appropriates \$1.1 million to DESPP from the General Fund for FY 26 to establish the project.

§§ 2 & 7 — POLICE TRAINING CENTER

The bill requires DESPP, in consultation with POST, to establish the police training center to train and educate police officers (see BACKGROUND) in crime scene processing, the collection and analysis of forensic evidence, and criminal investigations. The center must be located at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

By January 1, 2026, the DESPP commissioner must enter into an MOU with CCSU to establish the training center. The MOU must include a requirement that any funding for the center for a purpose other than providing training or education to a police officer requires the DESPP commissioner's written authorization.

The bill appropriates \$1.1 million to DESPP from the General Fund for FY 26 to establish the police training center.

§§ 3 & 4 — AUTISM SPECTRUM, COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT, OR NONVERBAL LEARNING DISORDER TRAINING

Charging for Training (§ 3)

Existing law requires basic and review training programs for state and local police to include techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment, or nonverbal learning disorder.

The bill allows the higher education institutions, health care professionals, or advocacy organizations concerned with juveniles or adults who have these disorders or a collaboration of these institutions, professionals, or organizations, to charge for these trainings.

Training Curriculum (§ 4)

The bill expands the training curriculum for police officers interacting with people with mental or physical disabilities. It does so by (1) specifying the types of individuals and advocates with whom POST must consult and (2) expanding the training to include interactions with individuals with mental illness.

The bill (1) requires POST, by July 1, 2026, to consult with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, cognitive impairments, or nonverbal learning disorders and (2) specifies that the advocates consulted with must include higher education institutions, health care professionals, or advocacy organizations that are concerned with these disabilities.

Under the bill, the training curriculum must include:

1. the nature of mental illness and mental or physical disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment, and nonverbal learning disorder;
2. how to identify individuals with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities; and

3. strategies and techniques for handling incidents that involve these individuals, including crisis intervention strategies and de-escalation techniques.

The bill requires each police basic or review training program on or after October 1, 2026, to include this training curriculum. (This provision is effective January 1, 2026, but the new requirements are not effective until October 1, 2026. So, under the bill there is no requirement for this training between these two times.)

§ 5 — TRAINING PROGRAM STUDY

The bill requires POST to conduct a study on the training programs police officers are required to complete under state law. The study must include an examination of the (1) mandatory basic training programs; (2) mandatory review training programs; and (3) how to improve, update, and streamline these programs.

By January 1, 2026, POST must submit a report on the study results and any legislative recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee.

BACKGROUND

Police Officer and Law Enforcement Unit

By law, “police officers” are sworn members of an organized local police department or the State Police; appointed constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties; special police officers appointed under law (such as public assistance fraud investigators); or any members of a law enforcement unit who perform police duties (CGS § 7-294a(9)).

A “law enforcement unit” is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under an MOU) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime (CGS § 7-294a(8)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/18/2025)