



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 200**

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 13

*Senate, March 25, 2025*

The Committee on Aging reported through SEN. HOCHADEL of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELDER JUSTICE UNIT AND ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE TO TARGET CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.***

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

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Within available  
2       appropriations, there is established within the Division of State Police  
3       within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection a  
4       state-wide elder abuse task force for the effective enforcement of the  
5       laws of this state concerning elder abuse.

6       (b) The task force shall conduct investigations in coordination with  
7       the elder justice unit established pursuant to sections 51-279 of the  
8       general statutes, as amended by this act, and 51-279b of the general  
9       statutes, as amended by this act, and may investigate suspected elder  
10      abuse at any place within the state as the task force deems necessary.

11      (c) The task force may (1) request and receive from any federal, state  
12      or local agency cooperation and assistance in the performance of its

13 duties, including the temporary assignment of personnel that may be  
14 necessary to carry out the performance of its functions, (2) enter into  
15 mutual assistance and cooperation agreements with other states  
16 pertaining to elder abuse law enforcement matters extending across  
17 state boundaries, and (3) consult and exchange information and  
18 personnel with agencies of other states with reference to elder abuse law  
19 enforcement problems of mutual concern.

20 (d) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
21 may appoint a commanding officer and such other personnel as said  
22 commissioner deems necessary for the duties of the task force.

23 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 51-279 of the general statutes is  
24 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
25 *1, 2025*):

26 (a) The Chief State's Attorney, with the advice of the Division of  
27 Criminal Justice Advisory Board under section 51-279a, shall  
28 administer, direct, supervise, coordinate and control the operations,  
29 activities and programs of the division as it shall apply to the Superior  
30 Court. [He] The Chief State's Attorney shall: (1) Establish such bureaus,  
31 divisions, facilities and offices, including an appellate unit, a  
32 racketeering and continuing criminal activities unit, [and] a bond  
33 forfeiture unit and an elder justice unit, and select such professional,  
34 technical and other personnel, including chief inspectors, as [he] the  
35 Chief State's Attorney deems reasonably necessary for the efficient  
36 operation and discharge of the duties of the division, subject to the  
37 personnel policies and compensation plan established by the  
38 Department of Administrative Services; (2) adopt and enforce rules and  
39 regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter; (3) establish  
40 guidelines, policies and procedures for the internal operation and  
41 administration of the division which shall be binding on all division  
42 personnel; (4) enter into contracts with consultants and such other  
43 persons as are necessary for the proper functioning of the office; (5)  
44 engage in long-range planning and review policy and legislation  
45 concerning the administration of criminal justice in the state and

46 recommend needed changes and additions thereto; (6) collect statistical  
47 data concerning administration of criminal justice in the state and  
48 furnish the data to the appropriate committee of the General Assembly;  
49 (7) conduct research and evaluate programs within his office; (8)  
50 establish staff development, training and education programs designed  
51 to improve the quality of the division's services and programs; (9)  
52 coordinate the activities of the division with those of such other state,  
53 municipal, regional, federal and private agencies as are concerned with  
54 the administration of criminal justice; (10) be authorized to receive and  
55 administer funds from the federal government or any charitable  
56 foundation to assist in the operations of the division; (11) supervise,  
57 approve and issue all orders concerning all purchases of commodities,  
58 equipment and services for the Division of Criminal Justice; (12)  
59 supervise the administrative methods and systems employed in the  
60 Division of Criminal Justice; (13) submit to the Department of  
61 Administrative Services for its approval a compensation plan for all  
62 employees of the division, which plan may include sick leave, vacation  
63 leave, absences without pay, longevity payments, increments and all  
64 other matters regarding personnel policies and procedures; (14)  
65 establish with the approval of the Department of Administrative  
66 Services such job classifications as [he] the Chief State's Attorney deems  
67 necessary for the operation of the division; (15) audit bills to be paid  
68 from state appropriations for the expenses of the Division of Criminal  
69 Justice; (16) maintain adequate accounting and budgetary records for all  
70 appropriations by the state for the maintenance of the Division of  
71 Criminal Justice and all other appropriations assigned by the legislature  
72 or state budgetary control offices for administration by the Division of  
73 Criminal Justice; (17) serve as payroll officer for the Division of Criminal  
74 Justice; and (18) have such other powers and duties as are reasonably  
75 necessary to administer the division and implement the purposes of this  
76 chapter. [He] The Chief State's Attorney shall prepare and submit to the  
77 Office of Policy and Management estimates of appropriations necessary  
78 for the maintenance of the division and make recommendations with  
79 respect thereto for inclusion as a separate item in the budget request of  
80 the Division of Criminal Justice.

81 Sec. 3. Section 51-279b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
82 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

83 (a) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish a racketeering and  
84 continuing criminal activities unit within the Division of Criminal  
85 Justice. Such unit shall be available for the investigation and prosecution  
86 of criminal matters including, but not limited to, the illegal purchase and  
87 sale of controlled substances, criminal activity by gangs, fraud,  
88 corruption, illegal gambling and the recruitment of persons to carry out  
89 such illegal activities.

90 (b) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish a bond forfeiture unit  
91 within the Division of Criminal Justice. Such unit shall be responsible  
92 for the collection, in the name of the state, and by suit when necessary,  
93 of all forfeited bonds payable to the state. Such unit may compromise  
94 and settle forfeited bonds for less than the amount thereof without  
95 regard to the expiration of any stay of forfeiture.

96 (c) The Chief State's Attorney shall develop uniform standards for the  
97 compromise and settlement of forfeited bonds. Such standards shall be  
98 applied on a state-wide basis.

99 (d) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish an elder justice unit  
100 within the Division of Criminal Justice. Such unit shall be available for  
101 the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters that involve  
102 criminal activity against elderly persons.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	51-279(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	51-279b

Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	51-279(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	51-279b

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

The title was changed.

**AGE** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

*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	96,967 - 290,900	124,289 - 372,867
Criminal Justice, Div.	GF - Cost	560,907	701,209
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	277,102 - 357,675	369,469 - 476,900

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Municipal Police Departments	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

### **Explanation**

The bill requires (1) the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to establish an elder justice unit and (2) the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to establish an elder abuse task force, resulting in a total cost to the General Fund ranging from \$934,975 to \$1,209,482 in FY 26 and \$1,194,967 to \$1,550,976 in FY 27. The bill also results in a potential cost to municipal police departments to the extent that they commit officers to the elder abuse task force.

Establishing an elder justice unit results in a cost of \$560,907 in FY 26 and \$701,209 in FY 27 to DCJ and \$236,815 in FY 26 and \$315,753 in FY 27 to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits.

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

DCJ will need eight new positions to establish an elder justice unit for an estimated cost of \$516,907 in FY 26 and \$689,209<sup>2</sup> for salaries in FY 27. In FY 26, there will be an approximate one-time cost of \$32,000 for office furniture, equipment, and training; an additional annual cost of about \$12,000 in other expenses is needed to support the activities of the new unit.

Establishing an elder abuse task force results in a cost of \$96,967 to \$290,900 in FY 26 and \$124,289 to \$372,867 in FY 27 to DESPP and \$40,287 to \$120,860 in FY 26 and \$53,716 to \$161,147 in FY 27 to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits.

DESPP will need to hire one to three Troopers First Class to staff the task force. The annual cost for equipment and vehicles is expected to be \$15,000 per trooper.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the exact size and caseload of these units and inflation.

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<sup>2</sup> These amounts include the following positions and annual salaries: 2 Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys \$93,275; 5 Inspectors \$83,355; and 1 Forensic Fraud Examiner \$85,884. FY 26's total salary cost is adjusted to reflect partial year implementation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 13*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELDER JUSTICE UNIT AND ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE TO TARGET CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes, within available appropriations, a statewide elder abuse task force within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP) Division of State Police. Similarly, it requires the Chief State's Attorney to establish an elder justice unit in the Division of Criminal Justice. The unit must be available for criminal investigations and prosecutions of criminal activity against elderly persons. The task force must conduct investigations in coordination with the unit.

The bill authorizes the task force to ask for and receive help from any federal, state, and local agencies, to include temporary personnel assignments. The task force also may (1) enter into agreements with other states relating to matters crossing state boundaries and (2) consult with, and exchange information and personnel with, other states' agencies for matters of mutual concern. The DESPP commissioner is authorized to appoint a commanding officer of the task force and other necessary personnel.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14    Nay 0    (03/06/2025)