

## Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1489

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL POLICE FORCES.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/11/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill aims to create a regional police force that focuses on protecting communities within the state that do not have local police departments. According to a 2023, Office of Legislative Report, Connecticut has ninety-five municipal police departments, and seventy-eight municipalities are under state police jurisdiction. Fifty-five have elected for resident state troopers who are stationed in the municipalities and work exclusively with them. The other twenty-three are served by the state police troop responsible for the municipality.

SB 1489 will allow for the creation of a law enforcement agency to be on-site in smaller towns to help them address crime and other issues. If this bill passes into law, it will require the regional police force to submit an application for creation, have an oversight review board that will monitor policy decisions. Create a working budget, design an operations layout and to make sure that the public needs are at the forefront of all decision. In addition to that the bill also proposes that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection create a grant program to cover cost and other resources that the regional force may need.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

#### [State of Connecticut Judicial Branch](#)

The Judicial branch has decided to be neutral on this issue. They do request that if this legislation passes into law that the effective date be changed to October 1, 2025, due to all the new procedures that are needed to be implemented to make the regional force functional.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Betsy Gara Executive Director Connecticut Council of Small Towns**

Ms. Gara is in full support of the creation of a regional police force since many of the smaller municipalities rely on the state trooper program to handle issues that arise in their communities. She notes that as illegal activities increase within towns the formulation of a regional police force will be effective in helping to manage these issues that are on the rise.

### **Brian Anderson**

Mr. Anderson presented in-person testimony in support of the bill. He requested that coalition bargaining language be added to the bill. He expresses that he has noticed regionalization is done as an attempt to cut salary and benefits.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

### **Jess Zaccagnino Policy Counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut ACLU-CT**

Mr. Zaccagnino opposes this bill and proceeds to explain that the ACLU-CT does not support initiatives that increase the role of policing in our society, and instead supports the reinvestment of funds from policing into programs that support community strength and health as the means to truly move Connecticut in the right direction. He expresses that real public safety means access to mental healthcare, affordable housing, income, proper childcare, opportunities for young people, and safe recreational spaces.

**Reported by: Rena Lewis**

**Date: 3/31/25**