

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7069

LCO No. **5262**

Referred to Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Introduced by: (INS)

AN ACT CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS OF POLICE OFFICERS.

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

Section 1. Section 7-291e of the general statutes is repealed and the
 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.

(b) On and after January 1, 2021, the administrative head of each law
enforcement unit shall require each police officer employed by such law
enforcement unit to submit, as a condition of continued employment, to

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

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

(d) A law enforcement unit that hires any person as a police officer,
who was previously employed as a police officer by another law
enforcement unit or employed as a police officer in any other

49 jurisdiction, may require such new hire to submit to a behavioral health 50 assessment conducted by such psychiatrist, psychologist or clinical social worker chosen by such police officer not later than six months 51 52 after the date of hire. When determining whether such new hire shall be 53 required to submit to a behavioral health assessment, the law 54 enforcement unit shall give due consideration to factors that include, 55 but are not limited to, the date on which such new hire most recently 56 submitted to a behavioral health assessment.

57 (e) (1) No law enforcement unit shall provide any medical record of 58 any police officer to any such psychiatrist, psychologist or clinical social 59 worker chosen by such police officer to conduct a behavioral health 60 assessment of such police officer pursuant to the provisions of this 61 <u>section.</u>

62 [(e) Any person conducting] (2) Any such psychiatrist, psychologist 63 or clinical social worker chosen by a police officer to conduct a behavioral health assessment of [a] such police officer pursuant to the 64 65 provisions of this section shall only provide a written copy of the results of such assessment to [the] such police officer and to the administrative 66 67 head of the law enforcement unit employing [the] such police officer. 68 Such written results shall not include an evaluation of such police 69 officer's physical fitness for duty.

(f) The results of any behavioral health assessment conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section and any record or note maintained by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker in connection with the conducting of such assessment shall not be subject to disclosure under section 1-210 <u>and shall not be disclosed to any third</u> party, except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this <u>section and otherwise required pursuant to state or federal law</u>.

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

 Section 1
 October 1, 2025
 7-291e

Statement of Purpose:

To allow each police officer to choose a psychiatrist, psychologist or clinical social worker for completion of such police officer's behavioral health assessment and expand the confidentiality requirements for such behavioral health assessment.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]