



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7159

LCO No. 5376



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT CREATING YELLOW ENVELOPES TO PROMOTE
ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FIRST
RESPONDERS AND PERSONS WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS OR
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND PROMOTING THE BLUE AND
YELLOW ENVELOPES.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section, (1) "police officer" and "law enforcement unit" have the same
3 meanings as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes; (2)
4 "emergency medical services personnel", "commercial ambulance
5 service", "rescue service", "ambulance service" and "paramedic intercept
6 service" have the same meanings as provided in section 19a-175 of the
7 general statutes; and (3) "firefighter" has the same meaning as provided
8 in section 7-323j of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

9 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commission on Women,
10 Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, in consultation with the
11 Department of Motor Vehicles, an association of police chiefs in the
12 state, an association of fire chiefs in the state, an association of
13 emergency medical services personnel in the state and at least one

14 organization that advocates for persons with cognitive impairments or
15 physical disabilities, shall:

16 (1) Design yellow envelopes that (A) provide written information and
17 guidance on the outside of the envelopes regarding ways to promote
18 accommodation and enhance effective interaction and communication
19 between a police officer, emergency medical services personnel or
20 firefighter and a person with cognitive impairments or physical
21 disabilities, and (B) are capable of holding a person's motor vehicle
22 operator's license, registration, insurance identification card and other
23 information or materials related to such person's cognitive impairment
24 or physical disability;

25 (2) Develop public awareness materials, including, but not limited to,
26 brochures about the yellow envelopes designed in accordance with
27 subdivision (1) of this subsection and blue envelopes designed in
28 accordance with section 14-11j of the general statutes, information cards
29 designed to fit inside a wallet, lanyards, seat belt covers, buttons,
30 ribbons, key chains, bracelets, stickers, window decals and magnets,
31 that contain information about ways to promote accommodation and
32 enhance effective interaction and communication with a person with
33 cognitive impairments or physical disabilities; and

34 (3) Disseminate such yellow envelopes and public awareness
35 materials to the Department of Motor Vehicles, law enforcement units,
36 municipal and volunteer fire departments, commercial ambulance
37 services, commercial rescue services, volunteer and municipal
38 ambulance services and ambulance services and paramedic intercept
39 services operated and maintained by a state agency and emergency
40 medical services personnel.

41 (c) Upon (1) receipt of such yellow envelopes and public awareness
42 materials, and (2) request by a person with a cognitive impairment or
43 physical disability or such person's parent, guardian, family member or
44 driver, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and each law enforcement

45 unit, municipal and volunteer fire department, commercial ambulance
46 service, commercial rescue service, volunteer and municipal ambulance
47 service and ambulance service and paramedic intercept service
48 operated and maintained by a state agency and emergency medical
49 services personnel shall provide a yellow envelope and any available
50 public awareness materials at no charge to such person, parent,
51 guardian, family member or driver.

52 (d) The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and
53 Opportunity, in consultation with at least one organization that
54 advocates for persons with cognitive impairments or physical
55 disabilities and Southern Connecticut State University, shall offer
56 training for police officers, firefighters and emergency medical services
57 personnel concerning techniques for handling incidents, promoting
58 accommodation and enhancing effective interaction and
59 communication with a person with a cognitive impairment or physical
60 disability.

61 Sec. 2. Section 7-294h of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

63 On and after January 1, 2017: (1) Each police basic or field training
64 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
65 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
66 shall provide a minimum of twenty-seven hours of training relative to
67 the handling of juvenile matters which includes, but is not limited to,
68 the following: (A) Techniques for handling incidents involving
69 juveniles; (B) information relative to the processing and disposition of
70 juvenile matters; (C) applicable procedures in the prosecution of cases
71 involving juveniles; (D) information regarding resources of the juvenile
72 justice system in the state; (E) the use of graduated sanctions; (F)
73 techniques for handling trauma; (G) restorative justice practices; (H)
74 adolescent development; (I) risk-assessment and screening tools; (J)
75 emergency mobile psychiatric services; and (K) on and after January 1,
76 [2020,] 2026, information relative to the blue envelopes designed

77 pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed pursuant to
 78 section 1 of this act and techniques for handling incidents, such as
 79 wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum
 80 disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder,
 81 provided the curriculum for such techniques is available at no cost to
 82 the division from (i) institutions of higher education, health care
 83 professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with
 84 juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive
 85 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (ii) a collaboration of
 86 such institutions, professionals or organizations; (2) each police basic or
 87 field training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer
 88 Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b or by
 89 a municipal police department in the state shall provide a minimum of
 90 fourteen hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters as
 91 provided in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) each police review
 92 training program conducted or administered by the Division of State
 93 Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
 94 Protection, by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council
 95 established under section 7-294b or by a municipal police department in
 96 the state shall provide a minimum of one hour of training relative to the
 97 handling of juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this
 98 section.

99 Sec. 3. Section 7-323l of the general statutes, as amended by section 3
 100 of public act 24-136, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 101 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

102 (a) The commission shall:

103 (1) Recommend minimum standards of education and physical
 104 condition for candidates for any firefighter position;

105 (2) Establish standards for fire service training and education
 106 programs, and develop and conduct an examination program to certify
 107 those fire service personnel who satisfactorily demonstrate their ability

108 to meet the requirements of the fire service training and education
109 program standards;

110 (3) Establish an optional fire service training and education program
111 [in the] that provides information relative to the blue envelopes
112 designed pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed
113 pursuant to section 1 of this act and techniques for handling of incidents,
114 such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism
115 spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning
116 disorder, provided the curriculum for such techniques is made available
117 at no cost from (A) institutions of higher education, health care
118 professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with
119 juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive
120 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B) collaborations of such
121 institutions, professionals or organizations;

122 (4) Conduct fire fighting training and education programs designed
123 to assist firefighters in developing and maintaining their skills and
124 keeping abreast of technological advances in fire suppression, fire
125 protection, fire prevention and related fields;

126 (5) Recommend standards for promotion to the various ranks of fire
127 departments;

128 (6) Be authorized, with the approval of the Commissioner of
129 Emergency Services and Public Protection, to apply for, receive and
130 distribute any state, federal or private funds or contributions available
131 for training and education of fire fighting personnel;

132 (7) Recommend that the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
133 Public Protection approve or reject the establishment of, or, when
134 appropriate, suspend or revoke the approval of, regional fire schools in
135 accordance with section 7-323u;

136 (8) Advise the Division of Fire Services Administration within the
137 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection on the

138 management of the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan;

139 (9) Implement the recommendations of the study of the fire service
140 authorized pursuant to subdivision (36) of subsection (b) of section 41
141 of public act 23-204; and

142 (10) Submit to the Governor, the joint standing committee of the
143 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
144 and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and the
145 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection an annual
146 report (A) relating to the activities, recommendations and
147 accomplishments of the commission, and (B) making recommendations
148 on the funding necessary for the operation of, the maintenance of and
149 capital improvements to the state fire school and regional fire schools.

150 (b) The commission may recommend, and the Commissioner of
151 Emergency Services and Public Protection may adopt, regulations in
152 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 as necessary to implement
153 the provisions of this section.

154 Sec. 4. Section 19a-179e of the general statutes is repealed and the
155 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

156 (a) Not later than June 30, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
157 Department of Public Health shall, within available appropriations,
158 compile a list of training programs that are available to members of
159 commercial ambulance services, commercial rescue services, volunteer
160 and municipal ambulance services, ambulance services and paramedic
161 intercept services operated and maintained by a state agency and
162 emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj.
163 Such training programs shall be approved by the Commissioner of
164 Public Health and include information relative to the blue envelopes
165 designed pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed
166 pursuant to section 1 of this act and techniques for handling incidents,
167 such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism
168 spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment and nonverbal learning

169 disorder. Such training programs may be offered by institutions of
170 higher education, health care professionals and advocacy organizations
171 that are concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum
172 disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, and
173 collaborations of such institutions, professionals or organizations. The
174 department may accept private donations for the purposes of this
175 section.

176 (b) Not later than July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
177 Department of Public Health shall make the list compiled pursuant to
178 subsection (a) of this section available to members of commercial
179 ambulance services, commercial rescue services, volunteer and
180 municipal ambulance services, ambulance services and paramedic
181 intercept services operated and maintained by any state agency and
182 emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj.

183 Sec. 5. Section 7-323j of the general statutes is repealed and the
184 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

185 As used in this part, "commission" means the Commission on Fire
186 Prevention and Control; "municipality" means town, city, consolidated
187 town and city, consolidated town and borough, borough, school district,
188 fire district, fire and sewer district, sewer district, lighting district or any
189 other municipal corporation or taxing district upon which is placed the
190 duty of, or which has itself assumed the duty of, protecting its
191 inhabitants from loss by fire; "fire fighting duties" means and includes
192 duties performed in connection with the suppression and prevention of
193 fires, fire training and rescue, fire investigation, arson investigation,
194 details and assignments to protect the public safety against fire and
195 other related work; ["firefighters"] "firefighter" means any person who
196 is regularly employed and paid by any municipality or by a contractor
197 which is a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of performing fire
198 fighting duties for a municipality on an average of not less than thirty-
199 five hours per week or any volunteer who performs fire fighting duties.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294h
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-323l
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	19a-179e
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-323j

Statement of Purpose:

To require (1) the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity to develop and make available yellow envelopes to promote accommodation and communication between first responders and persons with cognitive impairments or physical disabilities, and (2) various first responder trainings to include information about the blue and yellow envelopes.

[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.]