



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7159**

January Session, 2025



**AN ACT CREATING YELLOW ENVELOPES TO PROMOTE  
ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FIRST  
RESPONDERS AND PERSONS WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS OR  
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND INCREASING AWARENESS OF BLUE  
AND YELLOW ENVELOPES AMONG FIRST RESPONDERS.**

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 Commissioner of Motor  
10 Vehicles, in consultation with the Commission on Women, Children,  
11 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, 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 accommodations and enhance effective interactions and

19 communication between a police officer, emergency medical services  
20 personnel or firefighter and a person with cognitive impairments or  
21 physical disabilities, and (B) are capable of holding a person's motor  
22 vehicle operator's license, registration, insurance identification card and  
23 other information or materials related to such person's cognitive  
24 impairment 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 accommodations and  
32 enhance effective interactions and communication with a person with  
33 cognitive impairments, physical disabilities or autism spectrum  
34 disorder; and

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

42 (c) Upon (1) receipt of such yellow envelopes and public awareness  
43 materials, and (2) request by a person with a cognitive impairment or  
44 physical disability or such person's parent, guardian, family member or  
45 driver, such department, unit, service or emergency medical services  
46 personnel shall provide a yellow envelope and any available public  
47 awareness materials at no charge to such person, parent, guardian,  
48 family member or driver.

49 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 2-128 of the general statutes is  
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

51 *passage*):

52 (a) The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and  
53 Opportunity shall:

54 (1) Focus its efforts on the following quality of life desired results for  
55 women, children and their families, seniors and members of the African-  
56 American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican  
57 populations of the state: That all such persons are (A) healthy, safe and  
58 achieve educational success; (B) free from poverty; and (C) free from  
59 discrimination;

60 (2) With the advice of the executive committee of the commission,  
61 make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor for  
62 new or enhanced policies, programs and services that will foster  
63 progress in achieving the desired results described in subdivision (1) of  
64 this subsection. Such recommendations shall, when applicable, include,  
65 but need not be limited to: (A) Systems innovations, model policies and  
66 practices which embed two-generational practice in program, policy  
67 and systems change on the state and local levels, in accordance with  
68 section 17b-112l; (B) strategies for reducing family poverty, promoting  
69 parent leadership and family civics; (C) the promotion of youth  
70 leadership opportunities that keep youth engaged in the community;  
71 and (D) strategies and programs that address equitable access, impede  
72 bias, and narrow the opportunity gap for women, children and their  
73 families, seniors and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-  
74 American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state. Such  
75 recommendations may include other state and national best practices,  
76 and recommendations on federal funding maximization;

77 (3) With the advice of the executive committee of the commission,  
78 review and comment, as necessary, on any specific proposed state  
79 legislation or recommendations that may affect women, children and  
80 their families, seniors and members of the African-American, Asian  
81 Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state  
82 and provide copies of any such comments to members of the General

83 Assembly;

84 (4) With the advice of the executive committee of the commission,  
85 advise the General Assembly concerning the coordination and  
86 administration of state programs that affect women, children and their  
87 families, seniors and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-  
88 American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state;

89 (5) Gather and maintain, as necessary, current information regarding  
90 women, children and their families, seniors and members of the African-  
91 American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican  
92 populations of the state that can be used to better understand the status,  
93 condition, and contributions of such groups. Such information, as  
94 appropriate and pertinent to the desired results delineated in  
95 subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be included in the annual report  
96 submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and shall be  
97 made available to legislators and other interested parties upon request;

98 (6) Maintain liaisons between women, children and their families,  
99 seniors and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American  
100 and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state and government  
101 agencies, including the General Assembly; [and]

102 (7) Conduct educational and outreach activities intended to raise  
103 awareness of and address critical issues for women, children and their  
104 families, seniors and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-  
105 American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state; and

106 (8) Consult with (A) at least one organization that advocates for  
107 persons with cognitive impairments, physical disabilities or autism  
108 spectrum disorder and offers courses that are certified by the Police  
109 Officer Standards and Training Council established under section 7-  
110 294b, (B) an association of police chiefs in the state, (C) an association of  
111 fire chiefs in the state, and (D) an association of emergency medical  
112 services personnel in the state, to coordinate and identify various  
113 education and training programs for first responders concerning  
114 techniques for handling incidents, promoting accommodations and

115 enhancing effective interactions and communication between a first  
116 responder and a person with a cognitive impairment, physical disability  
117 or autism spectrum disorder.

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

120       On and after January 1, 2017: (1) Each police basic or field training  
121 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police  
122 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
123 shall provide a minimum of twenty-seven hours of training relative to  
124 the handling of juvenile matters which includes, but is not limited to,  
125 the following: (A) Techniques for handling incidents involving  
126 juveniles; (B) information relative to the processing and disposition of  
127 juvenile matters; (C) applicable procedures in the prosecution of cases  
128 involving juveniles; (D) information regarding resources of the juvenile  
129 justice system in the state; (E) the use of graduated sanctions; (F)  
130 techniques for handling trauma; (G) restorative justice practices; (H)  
131 adolescent development; (I) risk-assessment and screening tools; (J)  
132 emergency mobile psychiatric services; and (K) on and after January 1,  
133 [2020,] 2026, information relative to the blue envelopes designed  
134 pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed pursuant to  
135 section 1 of this act and techniques for handling incidents, such as  
136 wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum  
137 disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder,  
138 provided the curriculum for such techniques is available at no cost to  
139 the division from (i) institutions of higher education, health care  
140 professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with  
141 juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive  
142 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (ii) a collaboration of  
143 such institutions, professionals or organizations; (2) each police basic or  
144 field training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer  
145 Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b or by  
146 a municipal police department in the state shall provide a minimum of  
147 fourteen hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters as  
148 provided in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) each police review

149 training program conducted or administered by the Division of State  
150 Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
151 Protection, by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council  
152 established under section 7-294b or by a municipal police department in  
153 the state shall provide a minimum of one hour of training relative to the  
154 handling of juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this  
155 section.

156 Sec. 4. Section 7-323l of the general statutes, as amended by section 3  
157 of public act 24-136, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
158 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

159 (a) The commission shall:

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

162 (2) Establish standards for fire service training and education  
163 programs, and develop and conduct an examination program to certify  
164 those fire service personnel who satisfactorily demonstrate their ability  
165 to meet the requirements of the fire service training and education  
166 program standards;

167 (3) Establish an optional fire service training and education program  
168 [in the] that provides information relative to the blue envelopes  
169 designed pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed  
170 pursuant to section 1 of this act and techniques for handling of incidents,  
171 such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism  
172 spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning  
173 disorder, provided the curriculum for such techniques is made available  
174 at no cost from (A) institutions of higher education, health care  
175 professionals or advocacy organizations that are concerned with  
176 juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive  
177 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, or (B) collaborations of such  
178 institutions, professionals or organizations;

179 (4) Conduct fire fighting training and education programs designed

180 to assist firefighters in developing and maintaining their skills and  
181 keeping abreast of technological advances in fire suppression, fire  
182 protection, fire prevention and related fields;

183 (5) Recommend standards for promotion to the various ranks of fire  
184 departments;

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

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

193 (8) Advise the Division of Fire Services Administration within the  
194 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection on the  
195 management of the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan;

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

199 (10) Submit to the Governor, the joint standing committee of the  
200 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
201 and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and the  
202 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection an annual  
203 report (A) relating to the activities, recommendations and  
204 accomplishments of the commission, and (B) making recommendations  
205 on the funding necessary for the operation of, the maintenance of and  
206 capital improvements to the state fire school and regional fire schools.

207 (b) The commission may recommend, and the Commissioner of  
208 Emergency Services and Public Protection may adopt, regulations in  
209 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 as necessary to implement

210 the provisions of this section.

211 Sec. 5. Section 19a-179e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
212 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

213 (a) Not later than June 30, 2020, and annually thereafter, the  
214 Department of Public Health shall, within available appropriations,  
215 compile a list of training programs that are available to members of  
216 commercial ambulance services, commercial rescue services, volunteer  
217 and municipal ambulance services, ambulance services and paramedic  
218 intercept services operated and maintained by a state agency and  
219 emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj.  
220 Such training programs shall be approved by the Commissioner of  
221 Public Health and include information relative to the blue envelopes  
222 designed pursuant to section 14-11j and yellow envelopes designed  
223 pursuant to section 1 of this act and techniques for handling incidents,  
224 such as wandering, that involve juveniles and adults with autism  
225 spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment and nonverbal learning  
226 disorder. Such training programs may be offered by institutions of  
227 higher education, health care professionals and advocacy organizations  
228 that are concerned with juveniles and adults with autism spectrum  
229 disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, and  
230 collaborations of such institutions, professionals or organizations. The  
231 department may accept private donations for the purposes of this  
232 section.

233 (b) Not later than July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the  
234 Department of Public Health shall make the list compiled pursuant to  
235 subsection (a) of this section available to members of commercial  
236 ambulance services, commercial rescue services, volunteer and  
237 municipal ambulance services, ambulance services and paramedic  
238 intercept services operated and maintained by any state agency and  
239 emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj.

240 Sec. 6. Section 7-323j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
241 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):



242 As used in this part, "commission" means the Commission on Fire  
 243 Prevention and Control; "municipality" means town, city, consolidated  
 244 town and city, consolidated town and borough, borough, school district,  
 245 fire district, fire and sewer district, sewer district, lighting district or any  
 246 other municipal corporation or taxing district upon which is placed the  
 247 duty of, or which has itself assumed the duty of, protecting its  
 248 inhabitants from loss by fire; "fire fighting duties" means and includes  
 249 duties performed in connection with the suppression and prevention of  
 250 fires, fire training and rescue, fire investigation, arson investigation,  
 251 details and assignments to protect the public safety against fire and  
 252 other related work; ["firefighters"] "firefighter" means any person who  
 253 is regularly employed and paid by any municipality or by a contractor  
 254 which is a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of performing fire  
 255 fighting duties for a municipality on an average of not less than thirty-  
 256 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>from passage</i>	2-128(a)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294h
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-323l
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	19a-179e
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-323j

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(b)(3), Subpara. designators were added for clarity; and in Section 1(c), "the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and each law enforcement unit, municipal and volunteer fire department, commercial ambulance service, commercial rescue service, volunteer and municipal ambulance service and ambulance service and paramedic intercept service operated and maintained by a state agency and emergency medical services personnel" was changed to "such department, unit, service or emergency medical services personnel" for clarity.

**TRA** Joint Favorable Subst.