



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7202

LCO No. 5871



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established a Law
2 Enforcement Training Advisory Board to advise the Department of
3 Emergency Services and Public Protection with respect to the use of any
4 funds appropriated to the department for the purposes of the social
5 work and law enforcement project established pursuant to section 2 of
6 this act and the police training center established pursuant to section 3
7 of this act.

8 (b) The board shall consist of the following members:

9 (1) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
10 or the commissioner's designee;

11 (2) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's
12 designee;

13 (3) The chairperson of the Police Officer Standards Training Council,
14 or the chairperson's designee;

15 (4) A representative of the Division of State Police within the
16 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection with
17 experience in providing training related to the collection and analysis of
18 forensic evidence, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner of
19 Emergency Services and Public Protection; and

20 (5) A representative of an association of police chiefs in the state, who
21 shall be appointed by the president of such association.

22 (c) All members of the board shall be appointed on or before October
23 1, 2025, and biennially thereafter, to serve for a term of two years. Any
24 member may be reappointed, and any member may continue to serve
25 until such member's successor is appointed and qualified. Any vacancy
26 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

27 (d) The members of the board shall select a chairperson of the board
28 from among the members of the board. The chairperson shall be
29 responsible for scheduling the meetings of the board.

30 (e) The board shall be within the Department of Emergency Services
31 and Public Protection.

32 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Emergency
33 Services and Public Protection shall establish a project to be known as
34 the social work and law enforcement project to advance the ethical and
35 effective integration of social work services into law enforcement units
36 by preparing social workers, social work students and law enforcement
37 professionals to collaborate in the field of police social work. The project
38 shall be located at Southern Connecticut State University. The objectives
39 of the project shall be to: (1) Educate and train the social work and law
40 enforcement workforce to collaborate by using a model that integrates
41 police and social work, (2) increase community wellness through
42 training, research, education and policy advocacy concerning the
43 integration of police and social work, (3) strengthen the engagement
44 among social workers, law enforcement officers and community
45 members, and (4) promote dialogue concerning diversity, disparities

46 and systemic racism in criminal and juvenile justice settings. For
47 purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning
48 as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

49 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency
50 Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of
51 understanding with Southern Connecticut State University for the
52 purpose of establishing the social work and law enforcement project.
53 Such memorandum shall include, but need not be limited to, a
54 requirement that (1) the Department of Emergency Services and Public
55 Protection fund the project exclusively for the purposes described in
56 subsection (a) of this section, as determined by the commissioner, and
57 (2) any use of the project for a purpose other than providing training or
58 education to a police officer shall require the commissioner's written
59 authorization.

60 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Emergency
61 Services and Public Protection shall establish the police training center
62 to train and educate police officers in crime scene processing, the
63 collection and analysis of forensic evidence and criminal investigations.
64 The center shall be located at Central Connecticut State University. For
65 purposes of this section, "police officer" has the same meaning as
66 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

67 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency
68 Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of
69 understanding with Central Connecticut State University for the
70 purpose of establishing the police training center. Such memorandum
71 shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that (1) the
72 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection fund the
73 project exclusively for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this
74 section, as determined by the commissioner, and (2) any use of the
75 project for a purpose other than providing training or education to a
76 police officer shall require the commissioner's written authorization.

77 Sec. 4. Section 7-294h of the general statutes is repealed and the
78 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

79 On and after January 1, 2017: (1) Each police basic or field training
80 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
81 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
82 shall provide a minimum of twenty-seven hours of training relative to
83 the handling of juvenile matters which includes, but is not limited to,
84 the following: (A) Techniques for handling incidents involving
85 juveniles; (B) information relative to the processing and disposition of
86 juvenile matters; (C) applicable procedures in the prosecution of cases
87 involving juveniles; (D) information regarding resources of the juvenile
88 justice system in the state; (E) the use of graduated sanctions; (F)
89 techniques for handling trauma; (G) restorative justice practices; (H)
90 adolescent development; (I) risk-assessment and screening tools; (J)
91 emergency mobile psychiatric services; and (K) on and after January 1,
92 [2020] 2026, techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering, that
93 involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive
94 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum
95 for such techniques [is] be made available [at no cost] to the division
96 from (i) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or
97 advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults
98 with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal
99 learning disorder, or (ii) a collaboration of such institutions,
100 professionals or organizations; (2) each police basic or field training
101 program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and
102 Training Council established under section 7-294b or by a municipal
103 police department in the state shall provide a minimum of fourteen
104 hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters as provided
105 in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) each police review training
106 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
107 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, by
108 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under
109 section 7-294b or by a municipal police department in the state shall

110 provide a minimum of one hour of training relative to the handling of
111 juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this section.

112 Sec. 5. Section 7-294v of the general statutes is repealed and the
113 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

114 (a) Not later than July 1, [2023] 2026, the Police Officer Standards and
115 Training Council shall:

116 (1) [after] After consultation with persons with mental or physical
117 disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder,
118 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, and advocates on
119 behalf of such persons, including, but not limited to, institutions of
120 higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations
121 that are concerned with persons with autism spectrum disorder,
122 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, develop a
123 training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with
124 persons who have mental illness or mental or physical disabilities. []
125 Such training curriculum shall include, but need not be limited to, the
126 following topics: (A) The nature of mental illness and mental or physical
127 disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder,
128 cognitive impairment and nonverbal learning disorder; (B) how to
129 identify persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities;
130 and (C) strategies and techniques for handling incidents that involve
131 persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities, including,
132 but not limited to, crisis intervention strategies and deescalation
133 techniques; and

134 (2) [after] After consultation with persons who are deaf, hard of
135 hearing or deafblind and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop
136 a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with
137 persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. [On and after July
138 1, 2024, the training curriculum shall include crisis intervention
139 strategies for police officers to use when interacting with individuals
140 with mental illness in crisis.]

141 (b) On and after October 1, [2023] 2026, each police basic or review
 142 training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer
 143 Standards and Training Council, the Division of State Police within the
 144 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or a municipal
 145 police department shall include the training curriculum developed
 146 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

147 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million one hundred
 148 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency
 149 Services and Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
 150 ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of establishing the social work and
 151 law enforcement project pursuant to section 2 of this act.

152 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million one hundred
 153 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency
 154 Services and Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
 155 ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of establishing the police training
 156 center pursuant to section 3 of this act.

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294h
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294v
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish a Law Enforcement Training Advisory Board, (2) establish and fund the social work and law enforcement project at Southern Connecticut State University and the police training center at Central Connecticut State University, (3) eliminate a requirement that curriculum for police officer training concerning techniques for handling incidents that involve persons with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder be made available

at no cost, and (4) establish requirements for curriculum for police officer training concerning interactions with persons who have mental or physical disabilities.

[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.]