



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7202

January Session, 2025



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) The Department of
2 Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the
3 Police Officer Standards and Training Council, shall establish a project
4 to be known as the social work and law enforcement project to advance
5 the ethical and effective integration of social work services into law
6 enforcement units by preparing social workers, social work students
7 and law enforcement professionals to collaborate in the field of police
8 social work. The project shall be located at Southern Connecticut State
9 University. The objectives of the project shall be to: (1) Educate and train
10 the social work and law enforcement workforce to collaborate by using
11 a model that integrates police and social work, (2) increase community
12 wellness through training, research, education and policy advocacy
13 concerning the integration of police and social work, (3) strengthen the
14 engagement among social workers, law enforcement officers and
15 community members, and (4) promote dialogue concerning diversity,
16 disparities and systemic racism in criminal and juvenile justice settings.
17 For purposes of this section, "law enforcement unit" has the same
18 meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.
- 19 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency

20 Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of
21 understanding with Southern Connecticut State University for the
22 purpose of establishing the social work and law enforcement project.
23 Such memorandum shall include, but need not be limited to, a
24 requirement that any use of funding for the project for a purpose other
25 than providing training or education to a police officer shall require the
26 commissioner's written authorization.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Emergency
28 Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Police Officer
29 Standards and Training Council, shall establish a police training center
30 to train and educate police officers in crime scene processing, the
31 collection and analysis of forensic evidence and criminal investigations.
32 The center shall be located at Central Connecticut State University. For
33 purposes of this section, "police officer" has the same meaning as
34 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

35 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Emergency
36 Services and Public Protection shall enter into a memorandum of
37 understanding with Central Connecticut State University for the
38 purpose of establishing the police training center. Such memorandum
39 shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that any use of
40 funding for the center for a purpose other than providing training or
41 education to a police officer shall require the commissioner's written
42 authorization.

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

45 On and after January 1, 2017: (1) Each police basic or field training
46 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
47 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
48 shall provide a minimum of twenty-seven hours of training relative to
49 the handling of juvenile matters which includes, but is not limited to,
50 the following: (A) Techniques for handling incidents involving
51 juveniles; (B) information relative to the processing and disposition of

52 juvenile matters; (C) applicable procedures in the prosecution of cases
53 involving juveniles; (D) information regarding resources of the juvenile
54 justice system in the state; (E) the use of graduated sanctions; (F)
55 techniques for handling trauma; (G) restorative justice practices; (H)
56 adolescent development; (I) risk-assessment and screening tools; (J)
57 emergency mobile psychiatric services; and (K) on and after January 1,
58 [2020] 2026, techniques for handling incidents, such as wandering, that
59 involve juveniles and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive
60 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, provided the curriculum
61 for such techniques [is] be made available [at no cost] to the division
62 from (i) institutions of higher education, health care professionals or
63 advocacy organizations that are concerned with juveniles and adults
64 with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairment or nonverbal
65 learning disorder, or (ii) a collaboration of such institutions,
66 professionals or organizations; (2) each police basic or field training
67 program conducted or administered by the Police Officer Standards and
68 Training Council established under section 7-294b or by a municipal
69 police department in the state shall provide a minimum of fourteen
70 hours of training relative to the handling of juvenile matters as provided
71 in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) each police review training
72 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
73 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, by
74 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under
75 section 7-294b or by a municipal police department in the state shall
76 provide a minimum of one hour of training relative to the handling of
77 juvenile matters as provided in subdivision (1) of this section.

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

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

82 (1) [after] After consultation with persons with mental or physical
83 disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder,
84 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, and advocates on

85 behalf of such persons, including, but not limited to, institutions of
86 higher education, health care professionals or advocacy organizations
87 that are concerned with persons with autism spectrum disorder,
88 cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder, develop a
89 training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with
90 persons who have mental illness or mental or physical disabilities. []
91 Such training curriculum shall include, but need not be limited to, the
92 following topics: (A) The nature of mental illness and mental or physical
93 disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder,
94 cognitive impairment and nonverbal learning disorder; (B) how to
95 identify persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities;
96 and (C) strategies and techniques for handling incidents that involve
97 persons with mental illness or mental or physical disabilities, including,
98 but not limited to, crisis intervention strategies and deescalation
99 techniques; and

100 (2) [after] After consultation with persons who are deaf, hard of
101 hearing or deafblind and advocates on behalf of such persons, develop
102 a training curriculum for police officers regarding interactions with
103 persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. [On and after July
104 1, 2024, the training curriculum shall include crisis intervention
105 strategies for police officers to use when interacting with individuals
106 with mental illness in crisis.]

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

113 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "basic
114 training", "police officer" and "review training" have the same meanings
115 as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

116 (b) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall conduct

117 a study of the training programs that police officers are required to
 118 complete pursuant to chapter 104 of the general statutes. Such study
 119 shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1)
 120 mandatory basic training programs, (2) mandatory review training
 121 programs, and (3) how to improve, update and streamline such
 122 mandatory training programs.

123 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the council shall submit a report, in
 124 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 125 on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislation to
 126 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 127 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security.

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

133 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million one hundred
 134 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency
 135 Services and Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
 136 ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of establishing the police training
 137 center pursuant to section 2 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>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294h
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	7-294v
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a), "establish the police training center" was changed to "establish a police training center" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*