



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1489

LCO No. 5959



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL POLICE FORCES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section and
2 section 2 of this act:

3 (1) "Member municipality" means a town, city or borough that joins
4 a regional police force; and

5 (2) "Regional police force" means a law enforcement unit formed by
6 two or more member municipalities that enter into an agreement to
7 combine such member municipalities' police departments or share the
8 services of one or more resident state troopers.

9 (b) A regional police force may be formed by two or more
10 municipalities that each have a population of not more than fifty
11 thousand. Municipalities seeking to form a regional police force shall
12 submit an application to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
13 Public Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the
14 commissioner. The application shall include, but need not be limited to,
15 (1) a description of the proposed structure and governance of the

16 regional police force, (2) a financial plan detailing the estimated costs
17 and projected savings resulting from the formation of the regional police
18 force, and (3) a plan for ensuring continued public safety during the
19 period of transition to a regional police force. The commissioner may
20 approve the application if the commissioner determines that the
21 regional police force would be sufficiently funded, managed and
22 effective and that the formation of such regional police force would
23 satisfy the requirements established by the provisions of this section.

24 (c) (1) Each regional police force shall establish a regional police
25 authority to oversee policy decisions, approve budgets, establish
26 operational priorities, manage police operations, allocate resources and
27 ensure that public safety standards are met. The regional police
28 authority shall consist of representatives from each member
29 municipality.

30 (2) Each regional police authority shall annually hold a public hearing
31 to review such regional police force's performance and consider
32 comments from residents of the member municipalities that form the
33 regional police force.

34 (3) Member municipalities that form a regional police force shall
35 jointly assume liability for actions taken by such regional police force.
36 Such member municipalities shall share the cost of liability insurance
37 proportionally on the basis of population.

38 (d) Each regional police authority shall annually submit a report to
39 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the
40 chief elected official, chief executive officer and legislative body of each
41 of the member municipalities. Each such report shall include, but need
42 not be limited to, information regarding (1) the regional police force's
43 budget allocations and expenditures, (2) crime statistics and community
44 policing efforts in the member municipalities, and (3) the regional police
45 force's performance metrics, including, but not limited to, response
46 times, community outreach and officer staffing.

47 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
48 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Emergency
49 Services and Public Protection shall administer a regional police force
50 incentive grant program to provide grants to member municipalities for
51 the costs associated with (1) establishing a regional police force, (2)
52 transitioning to a regional police force, (3) the ongoing operations of a
53 regional police force, (4) the construction of facilities, (5) law
54 enforcement equipment, and (6) crime prevention initiatives. The
55 commissioner shall develop guidelines for the administration of such
56 grant program, eligibility criteria for participation and expenditure of
57 grant funds. Member municipalities may apply on such form and in
58 such manner as prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner
59 shall prioritize grant awards to member municipalities with
60 populations of less than thirty thousand.

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

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Statement of Purpose:

To (1) permit the establishment of regional police forces, and (2) establish a regional police force incentive grant program.

[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.]