



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 1489***

*January Session, 2025*



***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 police department formed by two  
6       or more member municipalities that enter into an agreement to combine  
7       such member municipalities' police departments.

8       (b) On and after October 1, 2025, a regional police force may be  
9       formed by two or more municipalities that each have a population of  
10      not more than fifty thousand, as determined by the most recent  
11      decennial census. Municipalities seeking to form a regional police force  
12      shall submit an application to the Commissioner of Emergency Services  
13      and 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.

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

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

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
47 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Emergency  
48 Services and Public Protection shall administer a regional police force  
49 incentive grant program to provide grants to member municipalities for  
50 the costs associated with (1) establishing a regional police force, (2)

51 transitioning to a regional police force, (3) the ongoing operations of a  
52 regional police force, (4) the construction of facilities, (5) law  
53 enforcement equipment, and (6) crime prevention initiatives. The  
54 commissioner shall develop (A) guidelines for the administration of  
55 such grant program, and (B) eligibility criteria for participation and the  
56 expenditure of grant funds. Member municipalities may apply on such  
57 form and in such manner as prescribed by the commissioner. The  
58 commissioner shall prioritize grant awards to member municipalities  
59 with populations of less than thirty thousand, as determined by the  
60 most recent decennial census.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2, "develop guidelines for the administration of such grant program, eligibility criteria for participation and expenditure" was changed to "develop (A) guidelines for the administration of such grant program, and (B) eligibility criteria for participation and the expenditure" for clarity.

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*