



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1492

LCO No. 5639



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than January 1, 2026, the
2 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
3 consult with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, institutions of
4 higher education in this state and any other entities the commissioner
5 deems appropriate to develop, coordinate and implement a plan to
6 promote the law enforcement profession. In implementing such plan,
7 the commissioner shall use a variety of media, including social media.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Emergency
9 Services and Public Protection shall employ a full-time cadet or explorer
10 program coordinator, who shall coordinate and oversee police cadet or
11 explorer programs, implement state standards and a best practices
12 guide for such programs and encourage establishment and expansion
13 of such programs throughout the state.

14 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year
15 thereafter, the department shall allocate five thousand dollars to each

16 municipal police department that operates, or plans to operate in the
17 following fiscal year, a cadet or explorer program.

18 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
19 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Emergency
20 Services and Public Protection shall establish a grant program to
21 reimburse municipal police departments for the cost of basic training of
22 police officers. Not later than October 1, 2025, the department shall post
23 in a conspicuous place on the department's Internet web site a
24 description of the grant program, including, but not limited to,
25 eligibility criteria and the application process for the program. A
26 municipal police department shall apply for such grants on such forms
27 and in such manner as determined by the department.

28 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section,
29 "academy" and "basic training" have the same meanings as provided in
30 section 7-294a of the general statutes.

31 (b) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall examine
32 criminal justice courses offered by colleges and universities in the state,
33 and determine (1) whether any such courses are equivalent to courses
34 required as part of basic training at the academy, and (2) under what
35 conditions an individual attending the academy for basic training need
36 not complete a course at the academy because the individual completed
37 an equivalent course at a college or university in the state. Not later than
38 January 1, 2026, the council shall submit a report of such examination
39 and determination, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
40 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
41 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and
42 security.

43 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Police Officer Standards and
44 Training Council shall establish a pilot program with the University of
45 New Haven to permit an individual who attends the academy for basic
46 training to complete such training by taking (1) courses related to legal

47 issues at such university, and (2) the remaining courses at the academy.
48 Not later than January 1, 2027, the council shall submit a report, in
49 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
50 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
51 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report
52 shall include (A) a description of the pilot program; (B) an analysis of
53 the impact of such program on police recruitment and training
54 procedures and resources; and (C) recommendations on whether to
55 terminate, continue, revise or expand such program.

56 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is
57 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
58 *2025*):

59 (b) (1) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law
60 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person
61 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
62 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve
63 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification
64 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection
65 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection, the
66 council may establish other qualifications for the employment of police
67 officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these qualifications. No
68 law enforcement unit shall deny employment as a police officer to a
69 prospective employee, and the council shall not deny certification under
70 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section to an individual, solely on
71 the basis of such prospective employee's or such individual's status as a
72 noncitizen of the United States, provided such prospective employee or
73 such individual is lawfully admitted for permanent residence of the
74 United States under federal law and regulations.

75 (2) The certification of any police officer who is not employed by a
76 law enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of two years, unless
77 such officer is on leave of absence, shall be considered lapsed. Upon
78 reemployment as a police officer, such officer shall apply for

79 recertification in a manner provided by the council, provided such
 80 recertification process requires the police officer to submit to a urinalysis
 81 drug test that screens for controlled substances, including, but not
 82 limited to, anabolic steroids, and receive a result indicating no presence
 83 of any controlled substance not prescribed for the officer. The council
 84 shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of satisfactory
 85 completion of a program or course of instruction in another state or, if
 86 the applicant is a veteran or a member of the armed forces or the
 87 National Guard, as part of training during service in the armed forces,
 88 that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in this state,
 89 provided such applicant passes an examination or evaluation as
 90 required by the council. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" and
 91 "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103.

92 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
 93 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Emergency
 94 Services and Public Protection shall provide a grant to each of the top
 95 ten most populous municipalities in the state in order to increase the
 96 salaries of police officers serving such municipalities. A municipality
 97 receiving such a grant shall not use the grant for any purpose other than
 98 increasing the salaries of such officers.

99 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026,
 100 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the
 101 Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a
 102 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 103 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 104 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such
 105 report shall include recommendations for a schedule of bonuses to be
 106 awarded to individuals upon entering service as a police officer, as
 107 defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and to be awarded to
 108 such officers based on years of service, in order to encourage individuals
 109 to begin and continue careers as police officers. The department and
 110 council may consult with chiefs of municipal police departments and
 111 any other individuals or entities in developing such recommendations.

112 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2026,
 113 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The
 114 University of Connecticut and the Police Officer Standards and Training
 115 Council shall jointly develop a career pathway to assist police officers in
 116 obtaining higher education degrees. Such pathway shall include a
 117 schedule of credits that officers may receive at each constituent unit of
 118 higher education, as defined in section 10a-1 of the general statutes, for
 119 the training such officers received in order to be certified, and maintain
 120 their certification, as police officers pursuant to section 7-294d of the
 121 general statutes, as amended by this act. Such boards and council shall
 122 promote such pathway in order to encourage police officers to earn
 123 higher education degrees.

124 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher
 125 Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and
 126 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a
 127 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 128 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 129 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such
 130 report shall include the pathway and schedule developed pursuant to
 131 subsection (a) of this section and a description of plans to promote such
 132 pathway.

133 Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is
 134 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 135 *2025*):

136 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of
 137 the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child
 138 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to
 139 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in
 140 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted
 141 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
 142 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
 143 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in

144 section 27-103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in
145 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in
146 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military
147 service academy, which veteran has been accepted for admission to such
148 institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is
149 accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the
150 state sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at the end of the regular
151 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
152 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to
153 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to
154 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
155 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut State
156 Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said
157 academy offered in coordination with a regional community-technical
158 college which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active
159 member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has
160 been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's
161 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled
162 or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time
163 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, (6) for any
164 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or
165 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in
166 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal
167 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in
168 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child
169 or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of
170 this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was
171 killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and
172 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, [and] (9) for any resident of
173 the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who
174 was killed in action while performing active military duty with the
175 armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and
176 who was a resident of this state, (10) for a police officer, as defined in
177 section 7-294a, who has been employed as such an officer in the state for

178 not less than two years, and (11) for any dependent child of a police
 179 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as such an
 180 officer in the state for not less than five years. If any person who receives
 181 a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also
 182 receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver
 183 shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement.
 184 Veterans and members of the National Guard described in subdivision
 185 (5) of this subsection shall be given the same status as students not
 186 receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional
 187 community-technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of
 188 section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state"
 189 includes domicile for less than one year.

190 Sec. 10. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is
 191 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 192 *2025*):

193 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
 194 undergraduate and graduate degree programs at the Connecticut State
 195 University System (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the
 196 armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or
 197 to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after
 198 January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to such
 199 institution and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted
 200 for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of
 201 subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
 202 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
 203 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
 204 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
 205 which veteran has been accepted for admission to such institution and
 206 is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for
 207 admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two
 208 years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to such
 209 institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting
 210 program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are

211 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those
 212 residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the
 213 course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space
 214 available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for
 215 any student attending the Connecticut Police Academy who is enrolled
 216 in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination
 217 with the university which accredits courses taken in such program, (5)
 218 for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard
 219 who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant
 220 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B)
 221 is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time
 222 or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting
 223 program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined
 224 in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)
 225 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire
 226 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in
 227 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state
 228 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist
 229 victim who was a resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a
 230 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
 231 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
 232 [and] (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
 233 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
 234 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
 235 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state, (10) for a
 236 police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as
 237 such an officer in the state for not less than two years, and (11) for any
 238 dependent child of a police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has
 239 been employed as such an officer in the state for not less than five years.
 240 If any person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the
 241 provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement
 242 from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
 243 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National
 244 Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the

245 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for
246 courses at Connecticut state universities. Notwithstanding the
247 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in
248 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

249 Sec. 11. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is
250 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
251 *2025*):

252 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
253 any undergraduate or graduate degree program at The University of
254 Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed
255 forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have
256 been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January
257 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to The University
258 of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time such child is
259 accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions
260 of subsection (f) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
261 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
262 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
263 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
264 which veteran has been accepted for admission to said institution and is
265 domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for admission
266 to said institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age
267 or older who has been accepted for admission to said institution,
268 provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or
269 (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the
270 course a sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible
271 for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which
272 such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such
273 course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any active member
274 of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been
275 certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee
276 as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or
277 accepted for admission to said institution on a full-time or part-time

278 basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, (5) for
 279 any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a,
 280 or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined
 281 in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal
 282 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in
 283 the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state who is the dependent
 284 child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a
 285 resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a resident of the state
 286 who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of
 287 Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, [and] (8) for
 288 any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse
 289 of a person who was killed in action while performing active military
 290 duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after September
 291 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state, (9) for a police officer, as
 292 defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as such an officer in
 293 the state for not less than two years, and (10) for any dependent child of
 294 a police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, who has been employed as
 295 such an officer in the state for not less than five years. If any person who
 296 receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this
 297 subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an employer,
 298 such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational
 299 reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National Guard
 300 described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the same
 301 status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses
 302 at The University of Connecticut. Notwithstanding the provisions of
 303 section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state"
 304 includes domicile for less than one year.

305 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the fiscal year ending
 306 June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Office of Higher
 307 Education, in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Services
 308 and Public Protection, shall administer a police officer loan
 309 reimbursement grant program for individuals who have been employed
 310 as a police officer, as defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, in

311 the state for not less than ten years.

312 (b) Any individual who satisfies the eligibility requirements
313 prescribed by the office may receive an annual grant for reimbursement
314 of federal or state educational loans (1) in an amount up to ten per cent
315 of such individual's federal or state educational loans but not exceeding
316 five thousand dollars in any year, and (2) for a period not to exceed ten
317 years. Such individual shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made
318 while such person is employed as a police officer in the state.

319 (c) Individuals may apply to the Office of Higher Education for grants
320 under this section at such time and in such manner as the executive
321 director of the Office of Higher Education prescribes.

322 (d) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
323 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
324 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

325 (e) The Office of Higher Education may accept gifts, grants and
326 donations, from any source, public or private, for the police officer loan
327 reimbursement grant program.

328 Sec. 13. Section 12-81 of the general statutes is amended by adding
329 subdivision (84) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to*
330 *assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

331 (NEW) (84) Property to the amount of ten thousand dollars belonging
332 to, or held in trust for, any resident of this state who is a police officer,
333 as defined in section 7-294a, and resides in a distressed municipality, as
334 defined in section 32-9p.

335 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Connecticut Housing
336 Finance Authority shall enhance assistance available to police officers
337 who seek to purchase a house as such officer's principal residence in the
338 community served by such officer. Such assistance shall prioritize first-
339 time homebuyers and include mortgage assistance, down payment

340 assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any
 341 mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable
 342 portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

343 Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) The State Retirement Commission shall
 344 (1) study deferred retirement option plans and make recommendations
 345 for development of such a plan that (A) is administered by the state, and
 346 (B) permits any police officer, as defined in section 7-294a of the general
 347 statutes, in the state to participate in the plan, and (2) study the types
 348 and levels of retirement medical benefits provided to such officers and
 349 the spouses of such officers in the state and make recommendations
 350 regarding the provision of such benefits. The commission may consult
 351 with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
 352 municipal police departments and any other entities the commission
 353 deems appropriate. Not later than January 1, 2026, the commission shall
 354 report the results of such studies and any recommendations, in
 355 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 356 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 357 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security.

358 Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2025, the
 359 Governor shall enter into negotiations with the employee organization
 360 that is the representative of state police officers to seek amendments to
 361 any collective bargaining agreement to establish conditions under
 362 which a state police officer who retired from service as such an officer
 363 may return to such service and (1) resume earning credit toward
 364 retirement benefits, in the same manner as such officer earned such
 365 credit prior to such officer's retirement, and (2) be eligible for earning
 366 the same benefits as such officer was eligible for prior to such officer's
 367 retirement.

368 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each collective bargaining
 369 agreement entered into on or after July 1, 2025, or amended on or after
 370 July 1, 2025, between a municipality and an employee organization that
 371 is the representative of police officers in the municipality shall permit

372 police officers who retire and remain certified by the Police Officer
373 Standards and Training Council pursuant to section 7-294d of the
374 general statutes, as amended by this act, to return to part-time or full-
375 time employment as a police officer with the municipality while
376 collecting such officer's pension, to the maximum extent permissible
377 under state and federal law and regulations.

378 Sec. 18. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
379 study the volunteer police auxiliary force authorized under section 29-
380 22 of the general statutes and make recommendations for improving the
381 organization of such auxiliary force and maximizing the services that
382 may be provided by auxiliary state police and municipal police officers.

383 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

384 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

385 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

386 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
387 Representatives;

388 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

389 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
390 Representatives;

391 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

392 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
393 or the commissioner's designee; and

394 (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor.

395 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
396 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
397 of the General Assembly.

398 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
399 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
400 be filled by the appointing authority.

401 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
402 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
403 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
404 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
405 days after the effective date of this section.

406 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
407 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
408 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

409 (g) Not later than January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report
410 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
411 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
412 safety and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
413 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
414 submits such report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

415 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section,
416 "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-
417 294a of the general statutes.

418 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Department of
419 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall develop a pilot program
420 to provide law enforcement units with unmanned aerial vehicles to
421 respond to requests for service, assist such units in assessing the dangers
422 and needs at the scene where service is requested prior to the arrival of
423 a police officer and enhance the safety of police officers and the services
424 such units provide to the public. In identifying units for participation in
425 the pilot program, the department shall give priority to units that would
426 most benefit from such program, including those with reduced staffing
427 levels.

428 (c) Not later than October 1, 2025, the department shall (1) develop
429 eligibility criteria to be used in selecting among applicants for
430 participation in the pilot program, (2) develop application forms and
431 deadlines, (3) post in a conspicuous location on the department's
432 Internet web site a description of the pilot program that includes, but is
433 not limited to, such criteria, forms and deadlines, and (4) notify law
434 enforcement units of the opportunity to apply for participation in such
435 program.

436 (d) (1) Not later than January 1, 2027, each law enforcement unit
437 participating in the pilot program pursuant to subsection (b) of this
438 section shall submit a report to the department describing the unit's use
439 of unmanned aerial devices, their impact on the unit's ability to provide
440 services to the public and any recommendations for the continuation of
441 or improvements to such pilot program.

442 (2) Not later than July 1, 2027, the department shall submit a report,
443 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
444 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
445 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report
446 shall include (A) information on the law enforcement units that applied
447 for participation in the pilot program, which units were chosen for
448 participation and the reasons for choosing such units, (B) a summary of
449 the reports submitted by units pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
450 subsection and an analysis of the results of the pilot program, and (C)
451 recommendations regarding the continuation or expansion of the pilot
452 program, funding needs and any necessary legislation.

453 Sec. 20. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section, "law
454 enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the same meanings as
455 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

456 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
457 shall investigate ways to develop and enhance programs and initiatives
458 that address the mental health needs of police officers. Such

459 investigation shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination
 460 of peer-to-peer support programs, programs that train officers to help
 461 themselves and fellow officers deal with mental health issues associated
 462 with their jobs, programs that employ a psychologist or other mental
 463 health professionals within a unit to assist officers with their mental
 464 health needs, employee assistance programs and any other programs
 465 and resources that may address the mental health needs of police
 466 officers. In conducting such investigation, the department shall consult
 467 with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the
 468 Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Connecticut Police
 469 Chiefs Association, law enforcement units throughout the state,
 470 employee organizations that represent police officers and any other
 471 entities the commissioner deems appropriate.

472 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a
 473 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 474 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 475 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such
 476 report shall include the results of such investigation, a list of programs,
 477 services and resources identified as best practices that could be
 478 implemented by units across the state to address the mental health
 479 needs of officers and any recommendations for legislation.

480 Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of five hundred thousand
 481 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services and
 482 Public Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
 483 30, 2026, for the state-wide campaign implemented pursuant to section
 484 1 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>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 5	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 6	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 10	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 11	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 12	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025</i>	12-81(84)
Sec. 14	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<u>July 1, 2025</u>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To enhance recruitment and retention of police officers.

[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.]