



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Substitute Bill No. 1492**



**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 Commissioner  
321 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 plan developed, coordinated and implemented  
 484 pursuant to section 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	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	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	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	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	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 12(c), "executive director of the Office" was changed to "Commissioner" for consistency with the general statutes; and in



Section 21, "state-wide campaign implemented" was changed to "plan developed, coordinated and implemented" for consistency with the provisions of Section 1.

***PS***      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*