



General Assembly

***Amendment***

***January Session, 2025***

**LCO No. 8045**



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DUFF, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GASTON, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. COHEN, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. WINFIELD, 10<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARONEY, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **1492**

File No. 448

Cal. No. 271

***"AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT  
AND RETENTION."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section,  
4 "academy" and "basic training" have the same meanings as provided in  
5 section 7-294a of the general statutes.

6 (b) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall examine  
7 criminal justice courses offered by colleges and universities in the state,  
8 and determine (1) whether any such courses are equivalent to courses  
9 required as part of basic training at the academy, and (2) under what  
10 conditions an individual attending the academy for basic training need  
11 not complete a course at the academy because the individual completed  
12 an equivalent course at a college or university in the state. Not later than

13 January 1, 2026, the council shall submit a report of such examination  
14 and determination, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
15 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
16 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and  
17 security.

18 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Police Officer Standards and  
19 Training Council shall establish a pilot program with the University of  
20 New Haven to permit an individual who attends the academy for basic  
21 training to complete such training by taking (1) courses related to legal  
22 issues at such university, and (2) the remaining courses at the academy.  
23 Not later than January 1, 2027, the council shall submit a report, in  
24 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
25 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
26 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report  
27 shall include (A) a description of the pilot program; (B) an analysis of  
28 the impact of such program on police recruitment and training  
29 procedures and resources; and (C) recommendations on whether to  
30 terminate, continue, revise or expand such program.

31 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026, the  
32 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Police  
33 Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a report, in  
34 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
35 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
36 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report  
37 shall include recommendations for a schedule of bonuses to be awarded  
38 to individuals upon entering service as a police officer, as defined in  
39 section 7-294a of the general statutes, and to be awarded to such officers  
40 based on years of service, in order to encourage individuals to begin and  
41 continue careers as police officers. The department and council may  
42 consult with chiefs of municipal police departments and any other  
43 individuals or entities in developing such recommendations.

44 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2026,  
45 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The

46 University of Connecticut and the Police Officer Standards and Training  
47 Council shall jointly develop a career pathway to assist police officers in  
48 obtaining higher education degrees. Such pathway shall include a  
49 schedule of credits that officers may receive at each constituent unit of  
50 higher education, as defined in section 10a-1 of the general statutes, for  
51 the training such officers received in order to be certified, and maintain  
52 their certification, as police officers pursuant to section 7-294d of the  
53 general statutes. Such boards and council shall promote such pathway  
54 in order to encourage police officers to earn higher education degrees.

55 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher  
56 Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and  
57 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a  
58 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
59 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
60 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
61 report shall include the pathway and schedule developed pursuant to  
62 subsection (a) of this section and a description of plans to promote such  
63 pathway.

64 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Emergency Services  
65 and Public Protection, in conjunction with the State Board of Labor  
66 Relations, shall study the feasibility of the state entering into  
67 negotiations with the employee organization that is the representative  
68 of state police officers to seek amendments to any collective bargaining  
69 agreement to establish conditions under which a state police officer who  
70 retired from service as such an officer may return to such service and (1)  
71 resume earning credit toward retirement benefits, in the same manner  
72 as such officer earned such credit prior to such officer's retirement, and  
73 (2) be eligible for earning the same benefits as such officer was eligible  
74 for prior to such officer's retirement. Not later than January 1, 2026, the  
75 department and board shall jointly submit a report on the results of such  
76 study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
77 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security, in  
78 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

79       Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section, "law  
80 enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the same meanings as  
81 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

82       (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
83 shall investigate ways to develop and enhance programs and initiatives  
84 that address the mental health needs of police officers. Such  
85 investigation shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination  
86 of peer-to-peer support programs, programs that train officers to help  
87 themselves and fellow officers deal with mental health issues associated  
88 with their jobs, programs that employ a psychologist or other mental  
89 health professionals within a law enforcement unit to assist officers with  
90 their mental health needs, employee assistance programs and any other  
91 programs and resources that may address the mental health needs of  
92 police officers. In conducting such investigation, the department shall  
93 consult with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
94 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Connecticut  
95 Police Chiefs Association, law enforcement units throughout the state,  
96 employee organizations that represent police officers and any other  
97 entities the commissioner deems appropriate.

98       (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a  
99 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
100 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
101 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
102 report shall include the results of such investigation, a list of programs,  
103 services and resources identified as best practices that could be  
104 implemented by law enforcement units across the state to address the  
105 mental health needs of officers and any recommendations for  
106 legislation."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section