



General Assembly

***Amendment***

***January Session, 2025***

**LCO No. 7800**



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. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026,  
32 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the  
33 Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly submit a  
34 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
35 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
36 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
37 report shall include recommendations for a schedule of bonuses to be  
38 awarded to individuals upon entering service as a police officer, as  
39 defined in section 7-294a of the general statutes, and to be awarded to  
40 such officers based on years of service, in order to encourage individuals  
41 to begin and continue careers as police officers. The department and  
42 council may consult with chiefs of municipal police departments and  
43 any other 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) There is established a task force to  
80       study the volunteer police auxiliary force authorized under section 29-  
81       22 of the general statutes and make recommendations for improving the  
82       organization of such auxiliary force and maximizing the services that  
83       may be provided by auxiliary state police and municipal police officers.

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

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

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

87       (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
88       Representatives;

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

90       (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
91       Representatives;

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

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

95       (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor.

96       (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
97       (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
98       of the General Assembly.

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

102       (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
103       tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
104       among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule

105 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
106 days after the effective date of this section.

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

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

116 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section, "law  
117 enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the same meanings as  
118 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

119 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
120 shall investigate ways to develop and enhance programs and initiatives  
121 that address the mental health needs of police officers. Such  
122 investigation shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination  
123 of peer-to-peer support programs, programs that train officers to help  
124 themselves and fellow officers deal with mental health issues associated  
125 with their jobs, programs that employ a psychologist or other mental  
126 health professionals within a law enforcement unit to assist officers with  
127 their mental health needs, employee assistance programs and any other  
128 programs and resources that may address the mental health needs of  
129 police officers. In conducting such investigation, the department shall  
130 consult with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
131 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the Connecticut  
132 Police Chiefs Association, law enforcement units throughout the state,  
133 employee organizations that represent police officers and any other  
134 entities the commissioner deems appropriate.

135 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a

136 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
137 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
138 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such  
139 report shall include the results of such investigation, a list of programs,  
140 services and resources identified as best practices that could be  
141 implemented by law enforcement units across the state to address the  
142 mental health needs of officers and any recommendations for  
143 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
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section