

# Public Safety and Security Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-405 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT AND DRUG  
**Title:** RECOGNITION TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.

**Vote Date:** 3/17/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/10/2026

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was raised to create a grant program that would give funds to law enforcement trainees to detect alcohol and drug-impaired driving. The bill aims to strengthen enforcement while improving officer training, since impaired driving has become a larger concern since the legalization of cannabis. It also seeks to expand access to specific training programs across police departments.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Garrett T. Eucalitto, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation](#): Commissioner Eucalitto offers some general comments on the bill. He states that the CTDOT feels the grant program is duplicative of services provided by the Department currently through the Connecticut Drug Recognition Expert. He adds that the programs are of no cost to officers and are funded by a combination of federal funds. The Commissioner states these funds also offer support to Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST). He adds the programs offer high quality and necessary training to officers. He notes that there have been many officers certified under these programs which she claims is important to improving safety of our state roads.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Dave Rutigliano, State Representative, Connecticut General Assembly](#): Representative Rutigliano is in support of the bill because it establishes the Impaired Driving Enforcement and Drug

Recognition Training Grant Program and uses a portion of cannabis-related tax revenue to fund it. He states that since recreational cannabis was commercialized in Connecticut there has been growing concerns about the growing challenges associated with detecting drug-impaired driving. He states that this requires a special type of training, however not all departments can afford to provide it. He claims that by giving a portion of cannabis tax revenue will ensure these reasons are provided.

**Anonymous 17:** Is in support of the bill for “simple tech updates.”

**Anonymous 21:** Is in support of the bill because it will have a large impact on road safety. They mention a few studies that prove the success of drug identification by officers has improved dramatically, which means all communities should be able to provide lifesaving training to officers.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Brandon L. McGee, Jr. Chief Executive Officer, Social Equity Council:** Mr. McGee is in opposition of the bill. He states that he appreciates the intent of the bill, however, section two of the bill proposes diverting 5% of cannabis tax revenue from the Social Equity and Innovation Account (SEIA) to fund impaired-driving enforcement and drug-recognition training programs. He claims that moving these funds will undermine the original intent of the Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis Act (RERACA), as well as weaken the Council’s Reimagine & Revitalize (R<sup>2</sup>) Community Reinvestment Program. He states that in June of 2025 the Social Equity Council relaunched the redesigned R<sup>2</sup> Community Reinvestment Program, which serves many purposes such as ensuring investments are aligned with their strategic priorities of economic development, reentry initiatives for justice and includes building services to keep up communities. He states that without these funds the quality of these programs will be hurt.

**Reported by:** Emma Rybacki, Clerk  
Olivia Buczak, Assist. Clerk

**Date:** 3/26/26