

# Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-409 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE STATUTORY ROLES OF THE VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**Title:** POSITIONS IN THE STATE.

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

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

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

**File No.:**

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## SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

## REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill intends to better understand how different public safety and law enforcement roles work across the state of Connecticut. It acknowledges that there are many positions that overlap or are unclear in their responsibilities. The bill wants to identify what training is required, where the gaps are, and where confusion exists. This bill would allow recommendations for legal or structural changes.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Patrick Griffin, Chief States Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice](#): writes in support of the bill. He claims that the proposed composition of the working group does not include Chief State's Attorney or the designee and also does not include the Division of Criminal Justice to review and comment upon the report and the recommendations in prior submission. He adds that the division asks if a working group is formulated for purposes outlined in the bill its consideration be given to including the Chief State's Attorney or the designee.

## NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Theresa Geary, Director of Operations, CT Humane Society \(CHS\)](#): Ms. Geary is in support of the bill because she believes that it is important to clarify these roles. She states that the bill includes important statutes which are not currently a part of existing animal control officers training. She states that one of these statues is in section 22-329a(f) of the bill and it requires an owner to turn over an

animal if the court has ruled so. She adds that cases like these could be dangerous for an officer and this stature will add some protection.

**Anonymous 11:** Is in support of the bill because of the working group and limited expenses.

**Anonymous 9:** Is in support of the bill because it would be very limited spending.

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

**Animal Welfare Caucus:** Is in opposition of the bill and they have concerns regarding the clarity of the bill. They state that Connecticut law does not define the term "animal control officer", which rather explains the responsibilities of the officers. They state that at the state level the Department of Agriculture oversees state animal control officers, but many officers will work under a variety of organizational structures depending on the municipality. They note that many times the responsibilities and positions of animal control officers are often vague and conflicting. They ask that the bill clearly defines roles, authority, responsibilities, and certification and training requirements rather than simply modifying the definition. They state that they would support legislation to establish a task force charged with conducting a comprehensive review of state statutes related to law enforcement and public safety positions.

**Anonymous 15:** Is in opposition of the bill because it expands bureaucracy and costs to the government

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

**Date:** 3/26/26