



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5428

LCO No. 2252



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE
OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 51-277a of the 2026 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) (1) Whenever a peace officer, in the performance of such officer's
5 duties, uses physical force upon another person and such person dies as
6 a result thereof or uses deadly force, as defined in section 53a-3, upon
7 another person, the Division of Criminal Justice shall cause an
8 investigation to be made and the Inspector General shall have the
9 responsibility of determining whether the use of physical force by the
10 peace officer was justifiable under section 53a-22. The use of an
11 electronic defense weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, by a peace officer
12 shall not be considered deadly force for purposes of this section.

13 (2) (A) Except as provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection,
14 whenever a person dies [in the] within the physical custody of a peace
15 officer or law enforcement agency, the Inspector General shall

16 investigate and determine whether physical force was used by a peace
17 officer upon the deceased person, and if so, whether the use of physical
18 force by the peace officer was justifiable under section 53a-22. If the
19 Inspector General determines the deceased person may have died as a
20 result of criminal action not involving the use of force by a peace officer,
21 the Inspector General shall refer such case to the Chief State's Attorney
22 or a state's attorney for potential prosecution.

23 (B) Except as provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection or
24 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, whenever a
25 person dies [in the] within the physical custody of the Commissioner of
26 Correction, the Inspector General shall investigate and determine
27 whether the deceased person may have died as a result of criminal
28 action, and, if so, refer such case to the Chief State's Attorney or a state's
29 attorney for potential prosecution. The Inspector General may issue a
30 report concerning the death of such person, which may include, but
31 need not be limited to, any recommended future action to be taken by
32 said commissioner.

33 (3) Whenever a person who (A) is a next of kin of a deceased person,
34 (B) is not notified of such deceased person's death as required pursuant
35 to section 7-294mm and no other person who is a next of kin of the
36 deceased person was so notified, and (C) requests of the Office of the
37 Inspector General an investigation of the lack of notification or timely
38 notification of such death, the Inspector General shall investigate and
39 determine whether there was any malfeasance on the part of a peace
40 officer or a supervisor of the peace officer in the failure to provide such
41 notification or timely notification, and if so, may make
42 recommendations to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council
43 established under section 7-294b concerning censure, suspension,
44 renewal, cancelation or revocation of the peace officer's or supervisor's
45 certification, provided any such recommendation may be made to said
46 council only in a case where such failure is found to be intentional or
47 made with reckless indifference. If there is no finding that such failure
48 was intentional or made with reckless indifference, a recommendation

49 may be made to the officer's or supervisor's employing agency for any
50 further disciplinary action as so determined by such employing agency.

51 (4) The Inspector General shall request the appropriate law
52 enforcement agency to provide such assistance as is necessary to
53 investigate and make a determination under subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of
54 this subsection.

55 (5) Whenever a peace officer, in the performance of such officer's
56 duties, uses physical force or deadly force upon another person and
57 such person dies as a result thereof, the Inspector General shall complete
58 a preliminary status report that shall include, but need not be limited to,
59 (A) the name of the deceased person, (B) the gender, race, ethnicity and
60 age of the deceased person, (C) the date, time and location of the injury
61 causing such death, (D) the law enforcement agency involved, (E) the
62 status on the toxicology report, if available, and (F) the death certificate,
63 if available. The Inspector General shall complete the report and submit
64 a copy of such report not later than five business days after the cause of
65 the death is available to the Chief State's Attorney and, in accordance
66 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of
67 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
68 judiciary and public safety.

69 (b) Upon the conclusion of the investigation of an incident described
70 in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, the Inspector
71 General shall file a report with the Chief State's Attorney which shall
72 contain the following: (1) The circumstances of the incident, (2) a
73 determination of whether the use of physical force by the peace officer
74 was justifiable under section 53a-22, and (3) any recommended future
75 action to be taken by the [Office of the Inspector General] law
76 enforcement agency as a result of the incident. The Chief State's
77 Attorney shall provide a copy of the report to the chief executive officer
78 of the municipality in which the incident occurred and to the
79 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection or the chief
80 of police of such municipality, as the case may be, and shall make such

81 report available to the public on the Division of Criminal Justice's
82 Internet web site not later than forty-eight hours after the copies are
83 provided to the chief executive officer and the commissioner or chief of
84 police.

85 (c) The Office of the Inspector General shall prosecute any case in
86 which the Inspector General determines that (1) the use of force by a
87 peace officer was not justifiable under section 53a-22, or (2) there was a
88 failure to intervene in such incident or to report any such incident, as
89 required under subsection (a) of section 7-282e or section 18-81nn.

90 Sec. 2. Section 51-277e of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
91 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
92 *passage*):

93 (a) There is established the Office of the Inspector General that shall
94 be a separate office within the Division of Criminal Justice. Not later
95 than October 1, 2021, the Criminal Justice Commission established
96 pursuant to section 51-275a shall appoint a deputy chief state's attorney
97 as Inspector General who shall lead the Office of the Inspector General.
98 The office shall: (1) Conduct investigations of peace officers in
99 accordance with section 51-277a, as amended by this act; (2) prosecute
100 any case in which the Inspector General determines a peace officer used
101 force found to not be justifiable pursuant to section 53a-22 or where a
102 police officer or correction officer fails to intervene in any such incident
103 or to report any such incident, as required under subsection (a) of
104 section 7-282e or section 18-81nn, as applicable; (3) investigate any
105 failure to report the death of a person in accordance with the provisions
106 of section 7-294mm; (4) investigate any failure to report in accordance
107 with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 7-294d;
108 (5) investigate the death of a person within the physical custody of a
109 peace officer or law enforcement agency or the Commissioner of
110 Correction in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of
111 subsection (a) of section 51-277a, as amended by this act; and [(5)] (6)
112 make recommendations to the Police Officer Standards and Training

113 Council established under section 7-294b concerning censure and
114 suspension, renewal, cancelation or revocation of a peace officer's
115 certification, provided in the case of a failure to report a death of a
116 person, any such recommendation may be made to said council only in
117 a case where such failure is found to be intentional or made with
118 reckless indifference, or if there is no finding that such failure was
119 intentional or made with reckless indifference, a recommendation may
120 be made to the officer's employing agency for any further disciplinary
121 action as so determined by such employing agency.

122 (b) The Inspector General shall serve a term of four years from July
123 first in the year of the appointment unless sooner removed by the
124 Criminal Justice Commission. The commission shall not be precluded
125 from reappointing an individual who has previously served as
126 Inspector General.

127 (c) An Inspector General may be removed or otherwise disciplined
128 only in accordance with section 51-278b.

129 (d) The Inspector General may issue subpoenas to municipalities, law
130 enforcement units, as defined in section 7-294, the Department of
131 Correction and any employee or former employee of the municipality,
132 unit or department (1) requiring the production of reports, records or
133 other documents concerning an investigation described in subsection (a)
134 of this section that is undertaken by the Inspector General, and (2)
135 compelling the attendance and testimony of any person having
136 knowledge pertinent to such investigation at an investigative deposition
137 conducted by the Inspector General, or the Inspector General's designee.

138 (e) A chief of police of a municipality, the Commissioner of
139 Emergency Services and Public Protection or the Commissioner of
140 Correction may refer and the Inspector General shall accept any such
141 referral of an incident described in subsection (a) of this section for
142 purposes of an investigation.

143 (f) The Office of the Inspector General shall be at a location that is

144 separate from the locations of the Office of the Chief State's Attorney or
145 any of the state's attorneys for the judicial districts.

146 (g) The Inspector General may employ necessary staff to fulfil the
147 duties of the Office of the Inspector General described in subsection (a)
148 of this section. Such staff shall be selected by the Inspector General
149 within the confines of any existing collective bargaining agreement and
150 shall include, but not be limited to, an assistant state's attorney or a
151 deputy assistant state's attorney, an inspector and administrative staff.
152 As needed by and upon request of the Inspector General, the Office of
153 the Chief State's Attorney shall ensure assistance from additional
154 assistant state's attorneys or deputy assistant state's attorneys,
155 inspectors and administrative staff.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	51-277a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	51-277e

Statement of Purpose:

To amend statutes concerning the powers and duties of the Office of the Inspector General.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]