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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5451**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON SCHOOL GROUNDS BY A CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER.***

#### **SUMMARY**

By law, peace officers (including state and local police officers) may lawfully carry a firearm on school grounds while carrying out their official duties. This bill permits Police Officer Standards and Training Council-certified police officers to lawfully carry a firearm on school grounds at any time.

As under existing law, a person possessing a firearm or deadly weapon in or on public or private elementary or secondary school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, knowing they are not authorized to do so is guilty of a class D felony (punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Peace Officers***

By law, the following individuals are designated peace officers: state and local police, Division of Criminal Justice inspectors, state marshals exercising statutory powers, judicial marshals performing their duties, conservation or special conservation officers, constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties, appointed special police officers, adult probation officers, Department of Correction officials authorized to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, investigators in the State Treasurer's Office, certified Department of Motor Vehicles inspectors, U.S. marshals and deputy marshals, U.S. special agents authorized to enforce federal food and drug laws, and certified police officers of a law enforcement unit created and governed under a state-tribal memorandum (CGS § 53a-3(9)).

***Police Officer***

By law, a police officer is a sworn member of an organized local police department or the State Police, an appointed constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, certain special policemen, or any member of a law enforcement unit who performs police duties (CGS § 7-294a).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 9 (03/17/2026)