



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 323

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5291

House of Representatives, April 1, 2026

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS STATUTES RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "municipal fire department" means any department, agency or
3 organization of a municipality, as defined in section 7-148 of the general
4 statutes, fire district established pursuant to section 7-325 of the general
5 statutes or other political subdivision of the state, whether staffed by
6 career or volunteer personnel, or a combination thereof, that provides
7 fire suppression or fire protection services.

8 (b) Not later than ten business days after the appointment of a new
9 or interim fire chief of a municipal fire department, such municipal fire
10 department shall notify the Department of Emergency Services and
11 Public Protection of such appointment. Such notification shall be made
12 on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
13 Public Protection and shall include, but need not be limited to, the name

14 of the appointee, effective date of such appointment, department name,
15 mailing address, electronic mail address, mobile telephone number,
16 dispatch contact number and any other information the commissioner
17 deems necessary for the department's records.

18 (c) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
19 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
20 provisions of this section.

21 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-227a of the 2026 supplement to the
22 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
23 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

24 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, in any criminal
25 prosecution for violation of subsection (a) of this section, evidence
26 respecting the amount of alcohol or drug in the defendant's blood or
27 urine at the time of the alleged offense, as shown by a chemical test of
28 the defendant's breath, blood or urine, shall be admissible and
29 competent provided: (1) The defendant was afforded a reasonable
30 opportunity to telephone an attorney prior to the performance of the test
31 and consented to the taking of the test upon which such analysis is
32 made; (2) if the chemical test was of the defendant's breath, a true copy
33 of the report of the [test] result of such test was mailed to or personally
34 delivered to the defendant within twenty-four hours or by the end of
35 the next regular business day, after such result was known, whichever
36 is later; (3) the test was performed by or at the direction of a police officer
37 according to methods and with equipment approved by the Department
38 of Emergency Services and Public Protection and was performed in
39 accordance with the regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this
40 section; (4) the device used for such test was checked for accuracy in
41 accordance with the regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this
42 section; (5) an additional chemical test of the same type was performed
43 at least ten minutes after the initial test was performed or, if requested
44 by the police officer for reasonable cause, an additional chemical test of
45 a different type was performed, including a test to detect the presence
46 of a drug or drugs other than or in addition to alcohol, provided the

47 results of the initial test shall not be inadmissible under this subsection
48 if reasonable efforts were made to have such additional test performed
49 in accordance with the conditions set forth in this subsection and (A)
50 such additional test was not performed or was not performed within a
51 reasonable time, or (B) the results of such additional test are not
52 admissible for failure to meet a condition set forth in this subsection;
53 and (6) evidence is presented that the test was commenced within two
54 hours of operation. In any prosecution under this section it shall be a
55 rebuttable presumption that the results of such chemical test establish
56 the ratio of alcohol in the blood of the defendant at the time of the
57 alleged offense, except that if the results of the additional test indicate
58 that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such defendant is ten-hundredths
59 of one per cent or less of alcohol, by weight, and is higher than the
60 results of the first test, evidence shall be presented that demonstrates
61 that the test results and the analysis thereof accurately indicate the blood
62 alcohol content at the time of the alleged offense.

63 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 15-140r of the general statutes is
64 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
65 *1, 2026*):

66 (a) Except as provided in section 15-140s or subsection (d) of this
67 section, in any criminal prosecution for the violation of section 15-132a,
68 subsection (d) of section 15-133, section 15-140l or 15-140n or subsection
69 (b) of section 53-206d, evidence respecting the amount of alcohol or drug
70 in the defendant's blood or urine at the time of the alleged offense, as
71 shown by a chemical test of the defendant's breath, blood or urine shall
72 be admissible and competent provided: (1) The defendant was afforded
73 a reasonable opportunity to telephone an attorney prior to the
74 performance of the test and consented to the taking of the test upon
75 which such analysis is made; (2) if the chemical test was of the
76 defendant's breath, a true copy of the report of the [test] result of such
77 test was mailed to or personally delivered to the defendant within
78 twenty-four hours or by the end of the next regular business day, after
79 such result was known, whichever is later; (3) the test was performed
80 by or at the direction of a certified law enforcement officer according to

81 methods and with equipment approved by the Department of
82 Emergency Services and Public Protection, and if a blood test was
83 performed, it was performed on a blood sample taken by a person
84 licensed to practice medicine and surgery in this state, a qualified
85 laboratory technician, an emergency medical technician II or a
86 registered nurse in accordance with the regulations adopted under
87 subsection (b) of this section; (4) the device used for such test was
88 checked for accuracy in accordance with the regulations adopted under
89 subsection (b) of this section; (5) an additional chemical test of the same
90 type was performed at least ten minutes after the initial test was
91 performed or, if requested by the peace officer for reasonable cause, an
92 additional chemical test of a different type was performed, including a
93 test to detect the presence of a drug or drugs other than or in addition
94 to alcohol, except that the results of the initial test shall not be
95 inadmissible under this subsection if reasonable efforts were made to
96 have such additional test performed in accordance with the conditions
97 set forth in this subsection and (A) such additional test was not
98 performed or was not performed within a reasonable time, or (B) the
99 results of such additional test are not admissible for failure to meet a
100 condition set forth in this subsection; and (6) evidence is presented that
101 the test was commenced within two hours of operation of the vessel or
102 expert testimony establishes the reliability of a test commenced beyond
103 two hours of operation of the vessel. In any prosecution under this
104 section, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the results of such
105 chemical analysis establish the ratio of alcohol in the blood of the
106 defendant at the time of the alleged offense, except that if the results of
107 the additional test indicate that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such
108 defendant is ten-hundredths of one per cent or less of alcohol, by weight,
109 and is higher than the results of the first test, evidence shall be presented
110 that demonstrates that the test results and the analysis thereof
111 accurately indicate the blood alcohol content at the time of the alleged
112 offense.

113 Sec. 4. Subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of section 54-102g of the
114 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
115 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

116 (a) Whenever any person is arrested on or after October 1, 2011, for
117 the commission of a serious felony and, prior to such arrest, has been
118 convicted of a felony but has not submitted to the taking of a blood or
119 other biological sample for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis
120 pursuant to this section, the law enforcement agency that arrested such
121 person shall, as available resources allow, require such person to submit
122 to the taking of a blood or other biological sample for DNA
123 (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis to determine identification
124 characteristics specific to the person. If the law enforcement agency
125 requires such person to submit to the taking of such blood or other
126 biological sample, such person shall submit to the taking of such sample
127 prior to release from custody and at such time and place as the agency
128 may specify. For purposes of this subsection, "serious felony" means a
129 violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958,
130 revised to January 1, 2019, or section 53a-54a, 53a-54b, 53a-54c, 53a-54d,
131 53a-55, 53a-55a, 53a-56, 53a-56a, 53a-56b, 53a-57, 53a-59, 53a-59a, 53a-60,
132 53a-60a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-72b, 53a-92, 53a-92a, 53a-
133 94, 53a-94a, 53a-95, 53a-100aa, 53a-101, 53a-102, 53a-102a, 53a-103a, 53a-
134 111, 53a-112, 53a-134, 53a-135, 53a-136, 53a-167c, 53a-179b, 53a-179c or
135 53a-181c.

136 (b) Any person who has been convicted of a criminal offense against
137 a victim who is a minor, a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent
138 offense, as those terms are defined in section 54-250, or a felony, and has
139 been sentenced on that conviction to the custody of the Commissioner
140 of Correction, and who has not submitted to the taking of a blood or
141 other biological sample pursuant to subsection (a) of this section with
142 respect to such offense, shall, [prior to release from custody] not later
143 than six months after sentencing and at such time as the commissioner
144 may specify, submit to the taking of a blood or other biological sample
145 of sufficient quality for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis to
146 determine identification characteristics specific to the person. If any
147 person required to submit to the taking of a blood or other biological
148 sample pursuant to this subsection refuses to do so, the Commissioner
149 of Correction or the commissioner's designee shall notify the
150 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection within thirty

151 days of such refusal for the initiation of criminal proceedings against
152 such person.

153 (c) Any person who is convicted of a criminal offense against a victim
154 who is a minor, a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense,
155 as those terms are defined in section 54-250, or a felony and is not
156 sentenced to a term of confinement, and who has not submitted to the
157 taking of a blood or other biological sample pursuant to subsection (a)
158 of this section with respect to such offense, shall, as a condition of such
159 sentence, not later than six months after sentencing and at a time and
160 place specified by the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
161 Department, submit to the taking of a blood or other biological sample
162 of sufficient quality for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis to
163 determine identification characteristics specific to the person.

164 (d) Any person who has been found not guilty by reason of mental
165 disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13 of a criminal offense against
166 a victim who is a minor, a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent
167 offense, as those terms are defined in section 54-250, or a felony, and is
168 in the custody of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
169 Services or the Commissioner of Developmental Services as a result of
170 that finding, and who has not submitted to the taking of a blood or other
171 biological sample pursuant to subsection (a) of this section with respect
172 to such offense, shall, prior to a court hearing commenced in accordance
173 with subsection (d) of section 17a-582, and at such time as the
174 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services or the
175 Commissioner of Developmental Services with whom such person has
176 been placed may specify, submit to the taking of a blood or other
177 biological sample of sufficient quality for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)
178 analysis to determine identification characteristics specific to the person.

179 (e) Any person who has been convicted of a criminal offense against
180 a victim who is a minor, a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent
181 offense, as those terms are defined in section 54-250, or a felony, and is
182 serving a period of probation or parole, and who has not submitted to
183 the taking of a blood or other biological sample pursuant to subsection

184 (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section, shall, [prior to discharge from] not later
185 than six months after entering the supervision of the Court Support
186 Services Division or the custody of the Department of Correction and at
187 such time as said division or department may specify, submit to the
188 taking of a blood or other biological sample of sufficient quality for
189 DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis to determine identification
190 characteristics specific to the person.

191 (f) Any person who has been convicted or found not guilty by reason
192 of mental disease or defect in any other state or jurisdiction of a felony
193 or of any crime, the essential elements of which are substantially the
194 same as a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor, a nonviolent
195 sexual offense or a sexually violent offense, as those terms are defined
196 in section 54-250, and is in the custody of the Commissioner of
197 Correction, is under the supervision of the Judicial Department or the
198 Board of Pardons and Paroles or is under the jurisdiction of the
199 Psychiatric Security Review Board, shall, [prior to discharge from] not
200 later than six months after entering such custody, supervision or
201 jurisdiction, submit to the taking of a blood or other biological sample
202 of sufficient quality for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis to
203 determine identification characteristics specific to the person.

204 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the purposes of this section,
205 "lawfully owed DNA" means a DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) sample
206 obtained from an offender pursuant to section 54-102g of the general
207 statutes, as amended by this act.

208 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
209 shall conduct a study of lawfully owed DNA. The study shall include
210 (1) an audit of current DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) collection and
211 submission practices across local and state law enforcement agencies,
212 the Division of Criminal Justice, the Department of Correction, the
213 Department of Developmental Services and the Judicial Branch, (2) a
214 census of individuals from whom DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is
215 lawfully owed but not collected, an analysis of systemic barriers to
216 collection, timelines, interagency coordination and data sharing, (3) a

217 definition of agency responsibilities at each stage of the criminal justice
218 process, (4) standard timelines and procedures for the collection and
219 submission of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), (5) recommendations for
220 data tracking and reporting protocols to ensure and facilitate
221 transparency and compliance, and (6) any information deemed relevant
222 by the commissioner. Not later than July 1, 2027, the commissioner shall
223 submit a report on the findings of such study, and any
224 recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the General
225 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and the
226 judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
227 general statutes.

228 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 7-294b of the general statutes is
229 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
230 *passage*):

231 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

232 (1) The chief elected official or chief executive officer of a town or city
233 within the state with a population in excess of fifty thousand, appointed
234 by the Governor;

235 (2) The chief elected official or chief executive officer of a town or city
236 within the state with a population of fifty thousand or less, appointed
237 by the Governor;

238 (3) A member of the faculty of an institution of higher education in
239 the state who has a background in criminal justice studies, appointed by
240 the Governor;

241 (4) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
242 holding office or employed as the chief of police, the deputy chief of
243 police or a senior ranking professional police officer of an organized
244 police department of a municipality within the state with a population
245 in excess of one hundred thousand, appointed by the Governor;

246 (5) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
247 holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest ranking

248 professional police officer of an organized police department of a
249 municipality within the state with a population in excess of sixty
250 thousand but not exceeding one hundred thousand, appointed by the
251 Governor;

252 (6) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
253 holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest ranking
254 professional police officer of an organized police department of a
255 municipality within the state with a population in excess of thirty-five
256 thousand but not exceeding sixty thousand, appointed by the Governor;

257 (7) A sworn municipal police officer from a municipality within the
258 state with a population exceeding fifty thousand, appointed by the
259 Governor;

260 (8) A sworn municipal police officer from a municipality within the
261 state with a population not exceeding fifty thousand, appointed by the
262 Governor;

263 (9) The [commanding officer] deputy commissioner of the
264 [Connecticut] Division of State Police [Academy] within the
265 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the deputy
266 commissioner's designee;

267 (10) A member of the public, who is a person with a physical
268 disability or an advocate on behalf of persons with physical disabilities,
269 appointed by the Governor;

270 (11) A victim of crime or the immediate family member of a deceased
271 victim of crime, appointed by the Governor;

272 (12) A medical professional, appointed by the Governor;

273 (13) The Chief State's Attorney;

274 (14) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association or the
275 person holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest
276 ranking professional police officer of an organized police department

277 within the state, appointed by the speaker of the House of
278 Representatives;

279 (15) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association or the
280 person holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest
281 ranking professional police officer of an organized police department
282 within the state, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

283 (16) A member of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association who is
284 holding office or employed as chief of police or the highest ranking
285 professional police officer of an organized police department of a
286 municipality within the state with a population not exceeding thirty-five
287 thousand, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

288 (17) A member of the public who is a justice-impacted person,
289 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

290 (18) A member of the public who is a justice-impacted person,
291 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

292 (19) A member of the public who is a person with a mental disability
293 or an advocate on behalf of persons with mental disabilities, appointed
294 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

295 (20) A sworn police officer who is not in a command position within
296 such officer's law enforcement unit, who is appointed by the
297 chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
298 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security; and

299 (21) A sworn police officer who is not in a command position within
300 such officer's law enforcement unit, who is appointed by the minority
301 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of
302 Representatives.

303 Sec. 7. Section 29-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
304 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

305 (a) [On and after June 15, 2012, and until July 1, 2013, the

306 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
307 appoint and maintain a sufficient number of sworn state police
308 personnel to efficiently maintain the operation of the Division of State
309 Police as determined by the commissioner in the commissioner's
310 judgment.] On and after July 1, 2013, the commissioner shall appoint
311 and maintain a sufficient number of sworn state police personnel to
312 efficiently maintain the operation of the division as determined by the
313 commissioner. [in accordance with the recommended standards
314 developed pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.] Any sworn state
315 police personnel appointed by the commissioner on or after July 31,
316 2020, shall be certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training
317 Council under section 7-294d within one year of appointment.

318 (b) On or before February first of each odd-numbered year, the
319 commissioner shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of
320 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
321 safety and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in
322 accordance with section 11-4a, providing an assessment of the number
323 of sworn state police personnel necessary to perform division
324 operations for the biennium beginning July first of that year. If such
325 report recommends a staffing level of less than one thousand two
326 hundred forty-eight sworn state police personnel, the commissioner
327 shall include in such report an assessment of the impact to public safety
328 and any potential negative impact specifically attributable to such
329 deviation in staffing level.

330 (c) The commissioner shall appoint from among sworn state police
331 personnel not more than three lieutenant colonels who shall be in the
332 unclassified service as provided in section 5-198. Any permanent
333 employee in the classified service who accepts appointment to the
334 position of lieutenant colonel in the unclassified service may return to
335 the classified service at such employee's former rank. The commissioner
336 shall appoint not more than twelve majors who shall be in the classified
337 service. The position of major in the unclassified service shall be
338 abolished on July 1, 2011. Any permanent employee in the classified
339 service who accepts appointment to the position of major in the

340 unclassified service prior to July 1, 2011, may return to the classified
341 service at such permanent employee's former rank. The commissioner,
342 subject to the provisions of chapter 67, shall appoint such numbers of
343 captains, lieutenants, sergeants, detectives and corporals as the
344 commissioner deems necessary to officer efficiently the state police
345 force.

346 (d) The commissioner shall establish such divisions as the
347 commissioner deems necessary for effective operation of the state police
348 force and consistent with budgetary allotments, a Criminal Intelligence
349 Division and a state-wide organized crime investigative task force to be
350 engaged throughout the state for the purpose of preventing and
351 detecting any violation of the criminal law, a Hate Crimes Investigative
352 Unit for the purposes described in section 29-7d and, for the fiscal years
353 ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, an investigative unit within the
354 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to conduct sting
355 operations relating to the online sexual abuse of minors for the purposes
356 described in section 29-7e. The head of the Criminal Intelligence
357 Division shall be of the rank of sergeant or above. The head of the Hate
358 Crimes Investigative Unit shall be of the rank of sergeant or above, and
359 shall serve as a member of the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory
360 Council, established under section 51-279f. The head of the state-wide
361 organized crime investigative task force shall be a police officer. The
362 head of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the
363 investigative unit conducting sting operations relating to the online
364 sexual abuse of minors, shall be of the rank of sergeant or above.

365 (e) Salaries of the members of the Division of State Police within the
366 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall be fixed
367 by the Commissioner of Administrative Services as provided in section
368 4-40. State police personnel may be promoted, demoted, suspended or
369 removed by the commissioner, but no final dismissal from the service
370 shall be ordered until a hearing has been had before the Commissioner
371 of Emergency Services and Public Protection on charges preferred
372 against such officer. Each state police officer shall, before entering upon
373 such officer's duties, be sworn to the faithful performance of such duties.

374 The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
375 designate an adequate patrol force for motor patrol work exclusively.

376 [(f) The Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee
377 shall conduct a study to develop recommended standards for use by the
378 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in
379 determining the commissioner's proposed level of staffing for the
380 Division of State Police for purposes of the biennial budget. The
381 committee, in developing such recommended standards, shall consider
382 the following: Technological improvements, federal mandates and
383 funding, statistical data on rates and types of criminal activity, staffing
384 of patrol positions, staffing of positions within the division and
385 department that do not require the exercise of police powers, changes in
386 municipal police policy and staffing and such other criteria as the
387 committee deems relevant. On or before January 9, 2013, the committee
388 shall report such recommended standards to the joint standing
389 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
390 relating to public safety and shall forward a copy thereof to the
391 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.]

392 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 85 of public act 13-3, as amended by
393 section 74 of public act 14-98, section 67 of public act 15-1 of the June
394 special session, section 26 of public act 18-178, section 74 of public act
395 20-1, section 62 of public act 21-111, section 68 of public act 23-205 and
396 section 9 of public act 25-157, is amended to read as follows (*Effective*
397 *July 1, 2026*):

398 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount
399 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department
400 of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the
401 Department of Education, for the purpose of the school security
402 infrastructure competitive grant program, established pursuant to
403 section 84 of public act 13-3, as amended by section 15 of public act 13-
404 122, section 191 of public act 13-247, section 73 of public act 14-98, section
405 1 of public act 15-5, section 1 of public act 16-171, section 1 of public act
406 17-68, section 490 of public act 17-2 of the June special session, section

407 73 of public act 20-1, section 1 of public act 25-102 and section 8 of [this
408 act] public act 25-157, provided not more than five million dollars may
409 be used by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
410 for school security projects that involve multimedia interoperable
411 communications systems.

412 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 29-357 of the general statutes is
413 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
414 *1, 2026*):

415 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
416 shall adopt reasonable regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, for
417 the granting of permits for supervised displays of fireworks or for the
418 indoor use of pyrotechnics, sparklers and fountains for special effects by
419 municipalities, fair associations, amusement parks, other organizations
420 or groups of individuals or artisans in pursuit of their trade. Such permit
421 may be issued upon application to said commissioner and after (1)
422 inspection of the site of such display or use by the local fire marshal to
423 determine compliance with the requirements of such regulations, and
424 (2) approval of the chiefs of the police and fire departments, or, if there
425 is no police or fire department, of the first selectman, of the municipality
426 wherein the display is to be held as is provided in this section. No such
427 display shall be handled or fired by any person until such person has
428 been granted a certificate of competency by the Commissioner of
429 Emergency Services and Public Protection. [, in respect to which] Such
430 certificate of competency shall be granted upon (A) submission by such
431 person (i) of evidence of good moral character and competence in the
432 control and handling of fireworks, and (ii) to state and national criminal
433 history record checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, and
434 (B) payment of a fee of two hundred dollars [shall be payable] to the
435 State Treasurer. [when issued and which] Such certificate of competency
436 may be renewed every three years upon payment of a fee of one
437 hundred ninety dollars [payable] to the State Treasurer. [, provided such
438 certificate may be suspended or revoked by said commissioner at any
439 time for cause.] Such certificate of competency shall attest to the fact that
440 such operator is competent to fire a display. No certificate of

441 competency granted pursuant to this subsection shall be transferable.
442 The commissioner may suspend or revoke such certificate of
443 competency at any time for cause. Such display shall be of such a
444 character and so located, discharged or fired as in the opinion of the
445 chiefs of the police and fire departments or such selectman, after proper
446 inspection, will not be hazardous to property or endanger any person or
447 persons. In an aerial bomb, no salute, report or maroon may be used that
448 is composed of a formula of chlorate of potash, sulphur, black needle
449 antimony and dark aluminum. Formulas that may be used in a salute,
450 report or maroon are as follows: [(A)] (i) Perchlorate of potash, black
451 needle antimony and dark aluminum, and [(B)] (ii) perchlorate of
452 potash, dark aluminum and sulphur. No high explosive such as
453 dynamite, fulminate of mercury or other stimulator for detonating shall
454 be used in any aerial bomb or other pyrotechnics. Application for
455 permits shall be made in writing at least fifteen days prior to the date of
456 display, on such notice as the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
457 Public Protection by regulation prescribes, on forms furnished by the
458 commissioner, and a fee of one hundred dollars shall be payable to the
459 State Treasurer with each such application. After such permit has been
460 granted, sales, possession, use and distribution of fireworks for such
461 display shall be lawful for that purpose only. No permit granted
462 hereunder shall be transferable. Any permit issued under the provisions
463 of this section may be suspended or revoked by the Commissioner of
464 Emergency Services and Public Protection [or the local fire marshal] for
465 violation by the permittee of any provision of the general statutes, any
466 regulation or any ordinance relating to fireworks.

467 Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 29-357a of the general statutes is
468 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
469 *1, 2026*):

470 (c) No pyrotechnic or flame producing device for use in a special
471 effects display shall be handled, discharged or fired by any person
472 unless under the supervision of a person who has been granted a
473 certificate of competency for special effects by the Commissioner of
474 Emergency Services and Public Protection. [The fee for such certificate

475 shall be] Such certificate shall be granted upon (1) submission by such
476 person (A) of evidence of good moral character and competence in the
477 control and handling of special effects, and (B) to state and national
478 criminal history record checks conducted in accordance with section 29-
479 17a, and (2) payment of a fee of two hundred dollars [, made payable]
480 to the State Treasurer. Such certificate may be renewed every three years
481 upon payment of a fee of one hundred ninety dollars to the State
482 Treasurer. Such certificate shall attest to the fact that such person is
483 competent to supervise the handling and discharge or firing of such
484 special effects. No certificate granted pursuant to this subsection shall
485 be transferable. The commissioner may suspend or revoke such
486 certificate at any time for cause.

487 Sec. 11. Subsections (e) to (i), inclusive, of section 29-38c of the 2026
488 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
489 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

490 (e) Not later than fourteen days after the issuance of a risk protection
491 order and, if applicable, a warrant under this section, the court for the
492 geographical area where the person named in the order or warrant
493 resides shall hold a hearing to determine whether the risk protection
494 order should continue to apply and whether the firearm or firearms or
495 other deadly weapon or deadly weapons and any ammunition seized
496 should be returned to the person named in the warrant or should
497 continue to be held by the state in accordance with the provisions of
498 subsections (h) and (i) of this section. At such hearing the state shall have
499 the burden of proving all material facts by clear and convincing
500 evidence. If, after such hearing, the court finds by clear and convincing
501 evidence that the person poses a risk of imminent personal injury to
502 such person's self or to another person, the court may order (1) that the
503 risk protection order continue to apply, and (2) that the firearm or
504 firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly weapons and any
505 ammunition seized pursuant to the warrant issued under subsection (a)
506 of this section continue to be held by the state until such time that (A)
507 the court shall terminate such order pursuant to subsection (f) of this
508 section and order the firearm or firearms or other deadly weapon or

509 deadly weapons and any ammunition seized to be returned as soon as
510 practicable to the person named in the warrant, provided such person
511 is otherwise legally able to possess such firearm or firearms or other
512 deadly weapon or deadly weapons and ammunition, or (B) the firearm
513 or firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly weapons and any
514 ammunition seized are (i) transferred pursuant to subsection (h) of this
515 section, or (ii) destroyed in accordance with subsection (i) of this section.
516 If the court finds that the state has failed to prove by clear and
517 convincing evidence that the petitioner poses a risk of imminent
518 personal injury to such person's self or to another person, the court shall
519 terminate such order and warrant, if applicable, and order the firearm
520 or firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly weapons and any
521 ammunition seized to be returned as soon as is practicable to the person
522 named in the warrant, provided such person is otherwise legally eligible
523 to possess such firearm or firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly
524 weapons and ammunition. If the court finds that the person poses a risk
525 of imminent personal injury to such person's self or to another person,
526 the court shall give notice to the Department of Mental Health and
527 Addiction Services which may take such action pursuant to chapter 319i
528 as the department deems appropriate.

529 (f) A risk protection order and warrant, if applicable, shall continue
530 to apply and the firearm or firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly
531 weapons and any ammunition held pursuant to subsection (e) of this
532 section shall continue to be held by the state until such time that (1) the
533 person named in the order and warrant, if applicable, successfully
534 petitions the court to terminate such order and warrant, if applicable, or
535 (2) the firearm or firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly weapons
536 and any ammunition seized are (A) transferred pursuant to subsection
537 (h) of this section, or (B) destroyed in accordance with subsection (i) of
538 this section. The person named in the order may first petition the court
539 of the geographical area where the proceeding was originally conducted
540 for a hearing to terminate such order and warrant, if applicable, at least
541 one hundred eighty days after the hearing held pursuant to subsection
542 (e) of this section. Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall [(1)]
543 (i) provide to the petitioner a hearing date that is on the twenty-eighth

544 day following the filing of such petition or the business day nearest to
545 such day if such twenty-eighth day is not a business day, [(2)] (ii) notify
546 the Division of Criminal Justice of the filing of such petition, and [(3)]
547 (iii) direct the law enforcement agency for the town in which the
548 petitioner resides to determine, not later than fourteen days after the
549 filing of such petition, whether there is probable cause to believe that
550 the petitioner poses a risk of imminent personal injury to such person's
551 self or to another person. No finding of probable cause may be found
552 solely because the petitioner is subject to an existing risk protection
553 order or warrant. If the law enforcement agency finds no probable
554 cause, the agency shall so notify the court which shall cancel the hearing
555 and terminate the order and warrant, if applicable. If the law
556 enforcement agency finds probable cause, the agency shall notify the
557 court of such finding and the hearing shall proceed as scheduled. At
558 such hearing the state shall have the burden of proving all material facts
559 by clear and convincing evidence. If the court, following such hearing,
560 finds by clear and convincing evidence that the petitioner poses a risk
561 of imminent personal injury to such person's self or to another person,
562 the order and warrant, if applicable, shall remain in effect. If the court
563 finds that the state has failed to prove by clear and convincing evidence
564 that the petitioner poses a risk of imminent personal injury to such
565 person's self or to another person, the court shall terminate such order
566 and warrant, if applicable. Any person whose petition is denied may file
567 a subsequent petition in accordance with the provisions of this
568 subsection at least one hundred eighty days after the date on which the
569 court denied the previous petition.

570 (g) The court shall immediately upon termination of a risk protection
571 order pursuant to this section remove or cancel any record entered into
572 the National Instant Criminal Background Check System associated
573 with such order.

574 (h) Any person whose firearm or firearms and ammunition have been
575 ordered seized pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, or such
576 person's legal representative, may transfer such firearm or firearms and
577 ammunition in accordance with the provisions of section 29-33 or other

578 applicable state or federal law, to a federally licensed firearm dealer.
579 Upon notification in writing by such person, or such person's legal
580 representative, and the dealer, the head of the state agency holding such
581 seized firearm or firearms and ammunition shall within ten days deliver
582 such firearm or firearms and ammunition to the dealer.

583 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 29-36k, the
584 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection holding
585 any firearm or firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly weapons and
586 any ammunition seized pursuant to a warrant issued under this section,
587 or any local police department holding on behalf of said commissioner
588 any such firearm or firearms or other deadly weapon or deadly weapons
589 or ammunition, shall not destroy any such firearm or other deadly
590 weapon or ammunition until at least [one year has] two years have
591 passed since date of the [termination of a warrant under] hearing held
592 pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. Not later than ninety days
593 prior to such destruction, the commissioner or any such local police
594 department shall notify, in writing, the person whose firearm, other
595 deadly weapon or ammunition was seized pursuant to a warrant issued
596 under this section of the date of such destruction.

597 Sec. 12. Section 29-161q of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
598 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
599 *October 1, 2026*):

600 (a) Any security service or business may employ as many security
601 officers as such security service or business deems necessary for the
602 conduct of the business, provided such security officers are of good
603 moral character and at least eighteen years of age.

604 (b) (1) No person hired or otherwise engaged to perform work as a
605 security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, shall perform the duties
606 of a security officer prior to being licensed as a security officer by the
607 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, except as
608 provided in subsection (h) of this section. Each applicant for a license
609 shall complete a minimum of eight hours training in the following areas:
610 Basic first aid, state search and seizure laws and regulations, use of force,

611 basic criminal justice and public safety issues. If an applicant for a
612 license intends to carry a less lethal weapon while on duty as a security
613 officer, such applicant shall complete additional training on how to use
614 such less lethal weapon lawfully and in accordance with the
615 recommendations of the manufacturer of such less lethal weapon. The
616 commissioner shall waive any such training required by this subsection
617 for (A) any person who is currently employed as, or separated from
618 service in good standing within the preceding two years as, a correction
619 officer for the Department of Correction, a parole officer for the
620 Department of Correction or a judicial marshal for the Judicial Branch,
621 and presents proof that such person has completed training that is
622 equivalent to the training required by this subsection, (B) any person
623 who is separated from service in good standing within the preceding
624 two years as a police officer, is not prohibited from being hired by a law
625 enforcement unit pursuant to section 7-291c and presents proof that
626 such person has completed training that is equivalent to the training
627 required by this subsection, and (C) any person who, while serving in
628 the armed forces or the National Guard, or if such person is a veteran,
629 within two years of such person's discharge from the armed forces,
630 presents proof that such person has completed military training that is
631 equivalent to the training required by this subsection, and, if applicable,
632 such person's military discharge document or a certified copy thereof.
633 The training shall be approved by the commissioner in accordance with
634 regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-161x. The commissioner
635 may not grant a license to any person who has been decertified as a
636 police officer or otherwise had his or her certification canceled, revoked
637 or refused renewal pursuant to subsection (c) of section 7-294d or under
638 the laws of any other jurisdiction. For the purposes of this subsection,
639 "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in
640 section 27-103, "military discharge document" has the same meaning as
641 provided in section 1-219, and "less lethal weapon" means a baton or
642 oleoresin capsicum spray, commonly referred to as "O.C. spray" or
643 "pepper spray".

644 [(1)] (2) No person or employee of an association, corporation or
645 partnership shall conduct such training without the approval of the

646 commissioner. Application for such approval shall be submitted on
647 forms prescribed by the commissioner and accompanied by a fee of
648 forty dollars. Such application shall be made under oath and shall
649 contain the applicant's name, address, date and place of birth,
650 employment for the previous five years, education or training in the
651 subjects required to be taught under this subsection, any convictions for
652 violations of the law and such other information as the commissioner
653 may require by regulation adopted pursuant to section 29-161x to
654 properly investigate the character, competency and integrity of the
655 applicant. No person shall be approved as an instructor for such training
656 who has been convicted of a felony, a sexual offense or a crime of moral
657 turpitude or who has been denied approval as a security service
658 licensee, a security officer or instructor in the security industry by any
659 licensing authority, or whose approval has been revoked or suspended.
660 The term for such approval shall not exceed two years. Not later than
661 two business days after a change of address, any person approved as an
662 instructor in accordance with this section shall notify the commissioner
663 of such change and such notification shall include both the old and new
664 addresses.

665 [(2)] (3) Each person approved as an instructor in accordance with
666 this section may apply for the renewal of such approval on a form
667 approved by the commissioner, accompanied by a fee of forty dollars.
668 Such form may require the disclosure of any information necessary for
669 the commissioner to determine whether the instructor's suitability to
670 serve as an instructor has changed since the issuance of the prior
671 approval. The term of such renewed approval shall not exceed two
672 years.

673 (c) Not later than two years after successful completion of the training
674 required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or the waiver of such
675 training, the applicant may submit an application for a license as a
676 security officer on forms furnished by the commissioner and, under
677 oath, shall give the applicant's name, address, date and place of birth,
678 employment for the previous five years, experience in the position
679 applied for, including military training and weapons qualifications, any

680 convictions for violations of the law and such other information as the
681 commissioner may require, by regulation, to properly investigate the
682 character, competency and integrity of the applicant. The commissioner
683 shall require any applicant for a license, or for renewal of a license,
684 under this section to submit to state and national criminal history
685 records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, provided
686 an applicant for renewal of a license shall not be charged any fingerprint
687 search or fingerprinting fee pursuant to subsection (c) of section 29-11
688 for such records checks. Each applicant for a license, or for renewal of a
689 license, shall submit with the application (1) two sets of his or her
690 fingerprints on forms specified and furnished by the commissioner, (2)
691 two full-face photographs, two inches wide by two inches high, taken
692 not earlier than six months prior to the date of application, and (3) a one-
693 hundred-dollar licensing fee or licensing renewal fee, made payable to
694 the state. Any applicant who is a member or veteran of the armed forces
695 or the National Guard and received a waiver as provided in subdivision
696 (1) of subsection (b) of this section shall be exempt from payment of such
697 licensing fee. Subject to the provisions of section 46a-80, no person shall
698 be approved for a license who has been convicted of a felony, any sexual
699 offense or any crime involving moral turpitude, or who has been
700 refused a license under the provisions of sections 29-161g to 29-161x,
701 inclusive, for any reason except minimum experience, or whose license,
702 having been granted, has been revoked or is under suspension. Upon
703 being satisfied of the suitability of the applicant for licensure, the
704 commissioner may license the applicant as a security officer. Such
705 license shall be renewed every five years. The commissioner shall send
706 a notice of the expiration date of such license to the holder of such
707 license, by first class mail or electronic mail, not less than ninety days
708 before such expiration, and shall include with such notice an application
709 for renewal. The holder of such license may elect to receive such notice
710 by first class mail or electronic mail. The security officer license shall be
711 valid for a period of ninety days after its expiration date unless the
712 license has been revoked or is under suspension pursuant to section 29-
713 161v. An application for renewal filed with the commissioner after the
714 expiration date shall be accompanied by a late fee of twenty-five dollars.

715 The commissioner shall not renew any license that has been expired for
716 more than ninety days.

717 (d) Upon the security officer's successful completion of training and
718 licensing by the commissioner, or immediately upon hiring a licensed
719 security officer, the security service employing such security officer
720 shall apply to register such security officer with the commissioner on
721 forms provided by the commissioner. Such application shall be
722 accompanied by payment of a forty-dollar application fee payable to the
723 state. The Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
724 Services and Public Protection shall keep on file the completed
725 registration form and all related material. An identification card with
726 the name, date of birth, address, full-face photograph, physical
727 descriptors and signature of the applicant shall be issued to the security
728 officer, and shall be carried by the security officer at all times while
729 performing the duties associated with the security officer's employment.
730 Registered security officers, in the course of performing their duties,
731 shall present such card for inspection upon the request of a law
732 enforcement officer.

733 (e) The security service shall notify the commissioner not later than
734 five days after the termination of employment of any registered
735 employee.

736 (f) Any fee or portion of a fee paid pursuant to this section shall not
737 be refundable.

738 (g) No person, firm or corporation shall employ or otherwise engage
739 any person as a security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, unless
740 such person (1) is a licensed security officer, or (2) meets the
741 requirements of subsection (h) of this section.

742 (h) During the time that an application for a license as a security
743 officer is pending with the commissioner, the applicant may perform the
744 duties of security officer, provided (1) the security service employing
745 the applicant [conducts, or has] conducted, or had a consumer reporting
746 agency regulated under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act conduct,

747 a state and national criminal history records check and [determines]
748 determined the applicant meets the requirements of subsection (c) of
749 this section to be a security officer, (2) the applicant successfully
750 completed the training required pursuant to subsection (b) of this
751 section, or obtained a waiver of such training, and (3) the applicant has
752 not been decertified as a police officer or otherwise had his or her
753 certification canceled, revoked or refused renewal pursuant to
754 subsection (c) of section 7-294d or under the laws of any other
755 jurisdiction. If the commissioner notifies the applicant, or, if the
756 application was submitted by a security service employing the
757 applicant, such security service, that the application is incomplete, the
758 applicant or security service, as applicable, shall submit a completed
759 application not later than ten calendar days after the date of such
760 notification. If, upon receiving such application, the commissioner
761 determines that such application is still incomplete, the commissioner
762 may, in the commissioner's discretion, deny the application. The
763 applicant shall not perform such duties at a public or private preschool,
764 elementary or secondary school or at a facility licensed and used
765 exclusively as a child care center, as described in subdivision (1) of
766 subsection (a) of section 19a-77. The applicant shall cease to perform
767 such duties pursuant to this subsection when the commissioner grants
768 or denies the pending application for a security license under this
769 section.

770 (i) Any person, firm or corporation that violates any provision of
771 subsection (b), (d), (e), (g) or (h) of this section shall be fined seventy-
772 five dollars for each offense. Each distinct violation of this section shall
773 be a separate offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, each day
774 thereof shall be deemed a separate offense.

775 Sec. 13. Section 29-152m of the general statutes is repealed and the
776 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

777 (a) No professional bondsman licensed under chapter 533, surety bail
778 bond agent licensed under chapter 700f or bail enforcement agent
779 licensed under sections 29-152f to 29-152i, inclusive, shall carry a pistol,

780 revolver, [or] other firearm or electronic defense weapon while
781 engaging in the business of a professional bondsman, surety bail bond
782 agent or bail enforcement agent, as the case may be, or while traveling
783 to or from such business unless such bondsman or agent obtains a
784 special permit from the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
785 Public Protection in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of
786 this section. The permit required under this section shall be in addition
787 to the permit requirement imposed under section 29-28 and shall not be
788 issued until the applicant has been issued a permit under section 29-28.

789 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
790 Protection may grant to any professional bondsman licensed under
791 chapter 533, surety bail bond agent licensed under chapter 700f or bail
792 enforcement agent licensed under sections 29-152f to 29-152i, inclusive,
793 a permit to carry a pistol or revolver or other firearm while engaging in
794 the business of a professional bondsman, surety bail bond agent or bail
795 enforcement agent, as the case may be, or while traveling to or from such
796 business, provided [that] such bondsman or agent has proven to the
797 satisfaction of the commissioner that such bondsman or agent has
798 successfully completed a course, approved by the commissioner, of
799 training in the safety and use of firearms.

800 (2) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
801 may grant to any professional bondsman licensed under chapter 533,
802 surety bail bond agent licensed under chapter 700f or bail enforcement
803 agent licensed under sections 29-152f to 29-152i, inclusive, a permit to
804 carry an electronic defense weapon while engaging in the business of a
805 professional bondsman, surety bail bond agent or bail enforcement
806 agent, as the case may be, or while traveling to or from such business,
807 provided such bondsman or agent has proven to the satisfaction of the
808 commissioner that such bondsman or agent has successfully completed
809 a course, approved by the commissioner, of training in the safety and
810 use of electronic defense weapons.

811 (c) An application for a permit pursuant to this section shall be made
812 on forms provided by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a

813 fee of sixty-two dollars. Such permit shall have an expiration date that
814 coincides with that of the state permit to carry a pistol or revolver issued
815 pursuant to section 29-28.

816 (d) A permit issued pursuant to this section shall be renewable every
817 five years with a renewal fee of sixty-two dollars. [Each] As a condition
818 of such renewal, each holder of a permit issued pursuant to this section
819 shall successfully complete an annual firearms or electronic defense
820 weapons safety refresher course, as applicable, that is approved by the
821 commissioner. [as a condition of such renewal.] The commissioner shall
822 send, by first class mail, a notice of expiration of the bail enforcement
823 agent firearms or electronic defense weapons permit issued pursuant to
824 this section, as applicable, together with a notice of expiration of the
825 permit to carry a pistol or revolver issued pursuant to section 29-28, in
826 one combined form. The commissioner shall send such combined notice
827 to the holder of the permits not later than ninety days before the date of
828 the expiration of both permits, and shall enclose a form for renewal of
829 the permits. A bail enforcement agent firearms or electronic defense
830 weapons permit issued pursuant to this section, as applicable, shall be
831 valid for a period of ninety days after the expiration date, except this
832 provision shall not apply if the permit to carry a pistol or revolver has
833 been revoked or revocation is pending pursuant to section 29-32, in
834 which case the bail enforcement agent firearms or electronic defense
835 weapons permit, as applicable, shall also be revoked.

836 (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
837 provisions of chapter 54 concerning the approval of schools, institutions
838 or organizations offering firearms or electronic defense weapons safety
839 courses, the requirements for instructors and the required number of
840 hours and content of such courses.

841 Sec. 14. Section 19a-421 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
842 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
843 *October 1, 2026*):

844 (a) No person shall establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp
845 without a license issued by the office. Applications for such license shall

846 be made in writing at least thirty days prior to the opening of the youth
847 camp on forms provided and in accordance with procedures established
848 by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of eight
849 hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a nonprofit, nonstock
850 corporation or association, a fee of three hundred fifteen dollars or, if
851 the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for
852 no more than five days duration and for which labor and materials are
853 donated, no fee. All such licenses shall be valid for a period of one year
854 from the date of issuance unless surrendered for cancellation or
855 suspended or revoked by the commissioner for violation of this chapter
856 or any regulations adopted under section 19a-428, shall be
857 nontransferable and shall be renewable upon receipt by the
858 commissioner of a renewal application and payment of an eight-
859 hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the licensee is a nonprofit,
860 nonstock corporation or association, a three-hundred-fifteen-dollar
861 license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit
862 organization, for no more than five days duration and for which labor
863 and materials are donated, no fee.

864 (b) On and after October 1, 2022, any licensee shall require any
865 prospective employee eighteen years of age or older, who is applying
866 for a position at a youth camp that requires the provision of care to a
867 child or involves unsupervised access to a child, to submit to a
868 comprehensive background check. The background check shall include,
869 but not be limited to, a (1) (A) criminal history records check conducted
870 (i) in accordance with section 29-17a, or (ii) by searching the electronic
871 criminal record system maintained on the Internet web site of the
872 Judicial Department for convictions matching the prospective
873 employee's name and date of birth, (B) state child abuse registry
874 established pursuant to section 17a-101k, (C) registry established and
875 maintained pursuant to section 54-257, and (D) National Sex Offender
876 Registry Public Website maintained by the United States Department of
877 Justice, or (2) check by a third-party provider of national criminal
878 history record checks that is conducted through a centralized database
879 utilizing the prospective employee's fingerprints, provided such
880 provider appears on a list of such providers published on the Internet

881 web site of the Office of Early Childhood. Prior to each check of the state
882 child abuse registry conducted pursuant to this subsection, a licensee
883 shall submit to the office an authorization for the release of personal
884 information signed by the prospective employee, on a form prescribed
885 by the office, and the office shall submit such authorization to the
886 Department of Children and Families. Any prospective employee who
887 holds a J-1 visa, H-1B visa or R-1 visa issued by the United States
888 Department of State shall not be required to submit to a background
889 check under this section.

890 (c) Pending completion of all comprehensive background check
891 components described in subsection (b) of this section, a prospective
892 employee may begin work on a provisional basis, provided such
893 prospective employee is supervised at all times by an employee who
894 was subjected to a comprehensive background check described in
895 subsection (b) of this section within the past five years.

896 (d) Each licensee shall require any employee of a youth camp holding
897 a position that requires the provision of care to a child or involves
898 unsupervised access to a child to submit to a comprehensive
899 background check described in subsection (b) of this section not later
900 than five years after the date such employee was hired, and at least once
901 every five years thereafter. Nothing in this section prohibits a licensee
902 from requiring any such employee to submit to a comprehensive
903 background check more than once during a five-year period.

904 (e) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall have the discretion to
905 refuse to license under sections 19a-420 to 19a-429, inclusive, a person
906 to establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp, as described in section
907 19a-420, or to suspend or revoke the license or take any other action set
908 forth in any regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-428 if, the
909 person who establishes, conducts or maintains such youth camp or a
910 person employed therein in a position connected with the provision of
911 care to a child or involving unsupervised access to a child, has (1) been
912 convicted in this state or any other state of (A) a felony as defined in
913 section 53a-25 involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of

914 physical force against another person, (B) cruelty to persons under
915 section 53-20, (C) injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of
916 children under section 53-21, (D) abandonment of children under the
917 age of six years under section 53-23, (E) any felony where the victim of
918 the felony is a child under eighteen years of age, or (F) a violation of
919 section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
920 January 1, 2019, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, (2)
921 a criminal record in this state or any other state that the commissioner
922 reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to establish, conduct
923 or maintain or be employed by a youth camp, or (3) held a license to
924 establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp in another state that was
925 revoked by such state's licensing authority. However, no refusal of a
926 license shall be rendered except in accordance with the provisions of
927 sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive.

928 (f) Any person who is licensed to establish, operate or maintain a
929 youth camp shall notify the Commissioner of Early Childhood if such
930 licensee or any person employed by such youth camp is convicted of a
931 crime listed in subsection (e) of this section, if such licensee or person
932 employed by such youth camp is employed in a position connected with
933 the provision of care to a child or involving unsupervised access to a
934 child, immediately upon obtaining knowledge of the conviction. Failure
935 to comply with the notification requirement may result in the
936 suspension or revocation of the license or the imposition of any action
937 set forth in regulation, and shall subject the licensee to a civil penalty of
938 not more than one hundred dollars per day for each day after the
939 licensee obtained knowledge of the conviction, provided such civil
940 penalty shall not exceed the aggregate sum of four thousand five
941 hundred dollars.

942 (g) Each licensee shall maintain, and make available for inspection
943 upon request of the Office of Early Childhood, any documentation
944 associated with a comprehensive background check described in
945 subsection (b) of this section, for a period of not less than five years from
946 the date of (1) completion of such background check, if the subject of the
947 comprehensive background check was not hired by the licensee, or (2)

948 separation from employment, if the subject of the comprehensive
949 background check was hired by the licensee.

950 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 368r, the Connecticut
951 Wing Civil Air Patrol within the Department of Emergency Services and
952 Public Protection may establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp
953 without obtaining a license issued by the office, provided the
954 Connecticut Wing Civil Air Patrol (1) establishes, conducts or maintains
955 any such youth camp on property owned or leased by the state and
956 utilizes a facility operated exclusively by the Military Department or the
957 armed forces of the United States in accordance with Title 10 of the
958 United States Code, and (2) complies with the guidelines set forth in the
959 Civil Air Patrol pamphlet entitled "CAPP 79-10 Cadet Medication
960 Management", as amended from time to time, during any overnight
961 youth camp.

962 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 29-6d of the 2026 supplement to the
963 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
964 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

965 (a) For purposes of this section and section 7-277b:

966 (1) "Law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in
967 section 7-294a;

968 (2) "Police officer" means a sworn member of a law enforcement unit
969 or any member of a law enforcement unit who performs police duties;

970 (3) "Body-worn recording equipment" means an electronic recording
971 device that is capable of recording audio and video;

972 (4) "Dashboard camera" means a dashboard camera with a remote
973 recorder, as defined in section 7-277b;

974 (5) "Digital data storage device or service" means a device or service
975 that retains the data from the recordings made by body-worn recording
976 equipment using computer data storage; and

977 (6) "Police patrol vehicle" means any state or local police vehicle,
 978 [other than] "Police patrol vehicle" does not include an administrative
 979 vehicle in which an occupant is wearing body-worn camera equipment,
 980 a bicycle, a motor scooter, an all-terrain vehicle, an electric personal
 981 assistive mobility device, as defined in subsection (a) of section 14-289h,
 982 or an animal control vehicle.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	14-227a(b)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	15-140r(a)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2026	54-102g(a) to (f)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 6	from passage	7-294b(b)
Sec. 7	from passage	29-4
Sec. 8	July 1, 2026	PA 13-3, Sec. 85(b)
Sec. 9	October 1, 2026	29-357(b)
Sec. 10	October 1, 2026	29-357a(c)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2026	29-38c(e) to (i)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2026	29-161q
Sec. 13	October 1, 2026	29-152m
Sec. 14	October 1, 2026	19a-421
Sec. 15	October 1, 2026	29-6d(a)

PS Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Savings	Less than 1,000	Less than 1,000
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Precludes Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Sections 2 and 3 eliminate a requirement that blood or urine test results be mailed to defendants within a specified timeframe, resulting in minimal savings to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). Based on prior year volumes, savings is expected to be less than \$1,000 annually due to fewer mailings.

Section 5, which has no fiscal impact, requires DESPP to conduct a DNA study. The agency has existing expertise to conduct the study described in the bill.

Section 8, which has no fiscal impact, transfers authority over bond proceeds for the school security infrastructure competitive grant program from the State Department of Education to DESPP. This section conforms to current practice as DESPP currently administers the program.

Section 14 allows the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to open, operate, and maintain a youth camp without an Office of Early

Childhood (OEC) license. While the CAP does not currently run a camp in the state, any future establishment of such a facility precludes the revenue gain from licensure fees that would otherwise be collected. For context, standard licensure fees are \$815 for for-profit organizations and \$315 for non-profits.

The other aspects of the bill are technical in nature, conform to agency practice, or otherwise do not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any changes to the OEC licensure fee schedule, or as otherwise described.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5291****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS STATUTES RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.**

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Generally allows firearms, deadly weapons, and ammunition held under a risk protection order to be destroyed after two years instead of one year and requires the DESPP commissioner or local police department to notify the owner in writing at least 90 days before they are destroyed

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Authorizes a Civil Air Patrol youth camp

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Specifies, for the purposes of the law requiring police patrol vehicles to use dashboard cameras, what a police patrol vehicle is not

§ 1 — MUNICIPAL FIRE CHIEF APPOINTMENTS

Requires municipal fire departments to notify DESPP about their appointments of a new or interim fire chief within 10 business days after the appointment

The bill requires municipal fire departments to notify the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) when they appoint a new or interim fire chief, within 10 business days after the appointment. Notifications must be made on a form the DESPP commissioner sets and include the name of the appointee, appointment's effective date, department name, mailing and email address, mobile telephone number, dispatch contact number, and any

other information the commissioner deems necessary for the department's records. The bill also allows him to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

Under the bill, "municipal fire departments" are departments, agencies, and organizations of a municipality, fire district, or other Connecticut political subdivision that provide fire suppression or fire protection services and are staffed by career or volunteer personnel or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 2 & 3 — BLOOD AND URINE TEST RESULTS TIMING

Limits, to chemical breath tests, which DUI-related test results must be sent to defendants within a specified timeframe

The bill eliminates a requirement in current law that blood or urine test results be delivered to defendants within a certain timeframe for the tests to be admitted as evidence in court for driving under the influence (DUI), impaired boating, or impaired hunting criminal prosecutions.

Existing law establishes several conditions that generally must be met in order to admit into evidence breath, blood, or urine tests indicating the amount of alcohol or drugs in a defendant's system. Under current law, one condition is that a true copy of the test result report was mailed or personally delivered to the defendant within 24 hours or by the end of the next regular business day after the result was known, whichever is later. The bill limits this condition so that it only applies to chemical tests of the defendant's breath.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§§ 4 & 5 — DNA TESTING

Requires certain convicted felons and others to submit to DNA testing within six months after sentencing or entering into specific supervision or custody; requires the DESPP commissioner to conduct a study on the DNA obtained

Existing law generally requires the collection of DNA from offenders convicted of felonies, criminal offenses against minors, non-violent sexual crimes, or sexually violent crimes. For these offenders who have

(1) been sentenced to the custody of the Department of Correction (DOC) and (2) not had a blood or other biological sample taken after they were arrested, current law requires they provide a sample of sufficient quality for DNA analysis before being released from custody. The bill instead requires that this sampling be done within six months after sentencing.

The bill imposes similar six-month requirements for samples taken from offenders convicted of these crimes who (1) were not sentenced to confinement or (2) are serving a period of probation or parole. Specifically, it requires samplings be done within six months after sentencing or entering supervision, respectively. Current law only requires that samplings be done as a condition of sentencing or prior to discharge, respectively.

For anyone convicted, or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, of these crimes (or crimes that are substantially the same) in another state or jurisdiction, current law requires they submit to DNA testing before being discharged from DOC custody, Judicial Department or Board of Pardons and Paroles supervision, or the Psychiatric Security Review Board's jurisdiction, as applicable. The bill instead requires samples to be taken within six months after being placed with those entities.

Relatedly, the bill requires the DESPP commissioner to conduct a study of "lawfully owed DNA," which the bill defines as a DNA sample obtained under the above collection-mandate law. The study must include:

1. an audit of current DNA collection and submission practices across local and state law enforcement agencies, the Division of Criminal Justice, DOC, the Department of Developmental Services, and the Judicial Branch;
2. a census of individuals from whom DNA is lawfully owed but not collected and an analysis of systemic barriers to collection, timelines, interagency coordination, and data sharing;

3. a definition of agency responsibilities at each stage of the criminal justice process;
4. standard timelines and procedures for collecting and submitting DNA;
5. recommendations for data tracking and reporting protocols to ensure and facilitate transparency and compliance; and
6. any information the commissioner deems relevant.

By July 1, 2027, the commissioner must report on the study's findings and any recommendations to the Judiciary and Public Safety and Security committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the provisions requiring DNA samples be taken within six months is effective October 1, 2026.

§ 6 — POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Replaces, on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the State Police Academy commanding officer with the State Police deputy commissioner

The bill changes the composition of the 23-member Police Officer Standards and Training Council by replacing the State Police Academy commanding officer with the State Police deputy commissioner or the deputy commissioner's designee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — NUMBER OF STATE POLICE

Eliminates the requirement that the DESPP commissioner appoint and maintain a number of sworn State Police personnel according to the recommended standards developed by the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee in 2013

Under existing law and according to the DESPP commissioner's determination, he must appoint and maintain enough sworn State Police personnel to efficiently maintain the operation of their division. The bill removes the requirement that he make his determination according to recommended standards the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) developed in a 2013 study. It

relatedly deletes the study's requirement and obsolete language.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PRI Staffing Standards for DESPP to Apply

PRI recommended the following standards for the DESPP commissioner to use in appointing and maintaining a sufficient number of sworn state police:

1. officers respond to 9-1-1 calls within 15 minutes at least 50% of the time;
2. functions explicitly stated in statute are provided;
3. State Police fully meet contractual obligations to towns to provide resident state troopers;
4. there is an adequate number of troopers to staff the 230 patrols, taking into consideration the shift relief factor;
5. patrol and resident state trooper supervision is sufficient based on a 1:8 span of control;
6. the two-officer minimum requirement for domestic violence, fatal accident, and untimely death or homicide calls for service is met at least 90% of the time; and
7. the use of regular duty overtime has not shown a sustained increase three years in a row.

§ 8 — SCHOOL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Transfers authority over bond proceeds for the school security infrastructure competitive grant program from SDE to DESPP

By law, DESPP, the Department of Administrative Services, and the State Department of Education (SDE) collectively administer the School Security Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program. The program reimburses approved applicants, within certain limits, for developing or improving security infrastructure, related training, or portable entrance

security devices. Grants can be given to various entities, such as towns (for their public schools), private schools, and certain licensed childcare centers.

Existing law authorizes \$107 million in bond funding for the program. Current law requires SDE to use the bond proceeds for the program. The bill instead requires DESPP to do so, in consultation with SDE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§§ 9 & 10 — FIREWORKS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

Conditions certificates of competency to handle or fire certain fireworks and special effects displays on applicants submitting to state and national criminal history record checks and providing evidence of good moral character and competence in the control and handling of the respective devices

Existing law authorizes the DESPP commissioner to issue permits for certain fireworks and special effects displays. It also prohibits anyone from handling, discharging, or firing these displays unless it is done under the supervision of someone who has a certificate of competency from the commissioner.

The bill requires that these certificates only be granted after an applicant has submitted (1) to state and national criminal history record checks and (2) evidence of good moral character and competence controlling and handling fireworks (or special effects).

Additionally, the bill (1) specifies that fireworks certificates of competency are not transferable, (2) eliminates the authority of local fire marshals to suspend or revoke a fireworks permit, and (3) makes technical and conforming changes.

State regulations, unchanged by the bill, set several requirements for certificate applicants, including:

1. providing evidence of at least three years of employment on a professional fireworks or special effects crew with responsibility for at least 10 supervised displays;

2. producing a letter from the chief of police of the municipality in which the applicant resides attesting to the applicant's good character and suitability to handle fireworks or special effects; and
3. receiving a passing grade on a written examination administered by the state fire marshal (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 29-357-6b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 11 — DESTRUCTION OF RISK PROTECTION ORDER ITEMS

Generally allows firearms, deadly weapons, and ammunition held under a risk protection order to be destroyed after two years instead of one year and requires the DESPP commissioner or local police department to notify the owner in writing at least 90 days before they are destroyed

Existing law allows any police officer or state's attorney or assistant state's attorney, under limited circumstances, to apply to court for a warrant ("risk warrant") to seize firearms, deadly weapons, and ammunition from someone who poses an imminent risk of injuring himself or herself or someone else (CGS § 29-38c(a)). Under existing law, the court in the geographical area where the person lives must hold a hearing within 14 days after a risk warrant's issuance to determine if the state should continue to hold the seized items or return them.

If DESPP or a local police department is holding the seized items under a risk warrant, current law prohibits them from destroying the items until at least one year has passed since the warrant's termination date. The bill changes this provision by prohibiting the destruction until at least two years have passed since the date of the above hearing. It additionally requires, at least 90 days before destroying the items, DESPP and local police departments to notify the owner in writing of the date his or her items will be destroyed.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 12 — SECURITY OFFICER TRAINING WAIVERS

Requires the DESPP commissioner to waive security officer training requirements for certain correction, parole, and police officers, and judicial marshals who present proof of completing equivalent training

Existing law requires, among other things, security officer license applicants to have successfully completed, within the two previous years, at least eight hours of training in basic first aid, search and seizure laws and regulations, use of force, basic criminal justice, and public safety issues. If they intend to carry a “less lethal weapon” (baton or pepper spray) while on duty, they must receive and complete additional DESPP-approved training. The bill specifies that the required search and seizure training is on state laws and regulations.

Under existing law, active military members and veterans, within two years after a discharge, are exempt from these training requirements if they received equivalent training while serving and apply within two years of their discharge. The bill further exempts the following people if they present proof that they completed training that is equivalent to the training required for the license:

1. anyone currently employed, or separated from service in good standing within the past two years, as a DOC correction officer or parole officer, or Judicial Branch judicial marshal; and
2. anyone who is separated from service in good standing within the past two years as a police officer and is not prohibited from being hired by a law enforcement unit (due to serious misconduct, for example).

Relatedly, the bill requires incomplete license applications to be completed within 10 calendar days if the DESPP commissioner notifies the applicant (or security service employing the applicant who submitted the application) that an application is incomplete. For re-submissions, if the commissioner determines the application is still incomplete, he may, in his discretion, deny the application.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 13 — ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON TRAINING

Prohibits professional bondsmen, surety bail bond agents, and bail enforcement agents from carrying an electronic defense weapon unless they obtain a special permit

Existing law prohibits professional bondsmen, surety bail bond agents, and bail enforcement agents from carrying a pistol, revolver, or other firearm while working unless they obtain a special permit from the DESPP commissioner. The bill extends this prohibition to them carrying electronic defense weapons. It allows the commissioner to grant them a special permit to carry those weapons if they prove to the commissioner's satisfaction that they have successfully completed a commissioner-approved course on safely using an electronic defense weapon. As is the case for permits with the other weapons, the bill requires permit holders to successfully complete an annual electronic defense weapons safety refresher course in order to renew their permits.

The bill makes technical and conforming changes, including extending to electronic defense weapons (1) other existing provisions on permit expiration notices and timing and (2) the commissioner's authority to adopt safety course regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 14 — CIVIL AIR PATROL YOUTH CAMP

Authorizes a Civil Air Patrol youth camp

The bill allows the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol to open, operate, and maintain a youth camp without an Office of Early Childhood (OEC) license. However, to be exempt, the camp must (1) be opened, operated, and maintained on state-owned or -leased property and use a facility operated exclusively by the Connecticut Military Department or U.S. Armed Forces, and (2) comply with the guidelines set forth in the "CAPP 79-10 Cadet Medication Management" Civil Air Patrol pamphlet during any overnight youth camp.

Generally, the current, April 2025 version of the pamphlet outlines tasks to be done by commanders, project officers, and event health service officers before, during, and after an overnight activity, such as (1) receiving, appropriately labeling, and securely storing all received

medications; (2) supervising cadets as they self-administer their medications and maintaining a log of all self-administered medications; and (3) contacting parents or guardians in cases when the cadet does not show up at the appropriate time for medication self-administration, or when there are lost, damaged, contaminated, or refused medications. Among other things, it requires that state laws be followed, regardless of the guidelines in the pamphlet.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally funded nonprofit corporation and serves as the volunteer civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force (see 36 U.S.C. § 40301, et seq.).

Background — Youth Camps

By law, among other criteria, a “youth camp” is any regularly scheduled program or organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during school vacations or on weekends by a person, entity, or state or municipal agency for recreational or educational purposes that accommodates at least five children from ages 3 through 15 (CGS § 19a-420).

For youth camps to operate in the state, they generally must complete a comprehensive licensing process OEC runs, including background checks for employees who provide care or have unsupervised access to a child. There is generally a license fee of \$315 or \$815 depending on the entity.

Background — Related Bill

SB 372 (File 280), favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee, has identical provisions.

§ 15 — DASHBOARD CAMERAS AND POLICE PATROL VEHICLES

Specifies, for the purposes of the law requiring police patrol vehicles to use dashboard cameras, what a police patrol vehicle is not

Under existing law, each state and local law enforcement unit must

require the use of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder in each police patrol vehicle used by any of the police officers it employs (CGS § 29-6d(c)). The bill specifies that a “police patrol vehicle” does not include (1) administrative vehicles with a body camera-wearing occupant, (2) bicycles, (3) motor scooters, (4) all-terrain vehicles, (5) electric personal assistive mobility devices, and (6) animal control vehicles. In effect, a “police patrol vehicle” is any state or local police vehicle besides these excluded vehicles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

Background — Related Bill

HB 5400 (File 252), favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee, has identical provisions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)