



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 326

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5451

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 POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON SCHOOL GROUNDS BY A CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER.

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

1 Section 1. Section 53a-217b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) A person is guilty of possession of a weapon on school grounds
4 when, knowing that such person is not licensed or privileged to do so,
5 such person possesses a firearm or deadly weapon, as defined in section
6 53a-3, (1) in or on the real property comprising a public or private
7 elementary or secondary school, or (2) at a school-sponsored activity as
8 defined in subsection (h) of section 10-233a.

9 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
10 the otherwise lawful possession of a firearm (1) by a person for use in a
11 program approved by school officials in or on such school property or
12 at such school-sponsored activity, (2) by a person in accordance with an
13 agreement entered into between school officials and such person or such

14 person's employer, (3) by a peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of
 15 section 53a-3, while engaged in the performance of such peace officer's
 16 official duties, [or] (4) by a person while traversing such school property
 17 for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to
 18 hunting or for other lawful purposes, provided such firearm is not
 19 loaded and the entry on such school property is permitted by the local
 20 or regional board of education, or (5) by a police officer certified
 21 pursuant to section 7-294d.

22 (c) Possession of a weapon on school grounds is a class D felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	53a-217b

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which permits certain police officers to carry a firearm on school grounds at any time, results in no fiscal impact to the state. This bill is not anticipated to affect the number of individuals sentenced under CGS § 53a-217b.¹

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ Between FY 22 and FY 25, 56 offenses were recorded under CGS § 53a-217b and no fines were collected.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5451*****AN ACT CONCERNING POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON SCHOOL GROUNDS BY A CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER.*****SUMMARY**

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND***Peace Officers***

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

tribal memorandum (CGS § 53a-3(9)).

Police Officer

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 9 (03/17/2026)