



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 329**

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5456

*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 NUMBER OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 29-1r of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (a) There is established a Department of Emergency Services and  
5 Public Protection. Said department shall be the designated emergency  
6 management and homeland security agency for the state. The  
7 department head shall be the Commissioner of Emergency Services and  
8 Public Protection, who shall be appointed by the Governor in  
9 accordance with sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, with the powers and  
10 duties prescribed in said sections. The commissioner shall be  
11 responsible for providing a coordinated, integrated program for the  
12 protection of life and property and for state-wide emergency  
13 management and homeland security. The commissioner shall appoint

14 not more than [two] three deputy commissioners who shall, under the  
15 direction of the commissioner, assist in the administration of the  
16 department. The commissioner may do all things necessary to apply for,  
17 qualify for and accept any federal funds made available or allotted  
18 under any federal act for emergency management or homeland security.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	29-1r(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 - Cost	150,000	200,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	62,730	83,640

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill results in a cost to the state of approximately \$212,730 in FY 27 and \$283,640 in FY 28 for salary and fringe costs associated with authorizing a third deputy commissioner within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The lower cost in FY 27 reflects partial year expenses due to the October 1, 2026, effective date.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5456**

***AN ACT CONCERNING DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill expands, from two to three, the number of deputy commissioners the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner must appoint.

By law, these deputies must help administer the agency under the DESPP commissioner’s direction. The commissioner must appoint one deputy, with the powers and privileges of a state police officer, to head the Division of State Police and one deputy to head the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)