



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5035



Offered by:

REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.

REP. HOWARD, 43rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 397

File No. 399

Cal. No. 455

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY."**

1 Strike subsection (a) of section 1 in its entirety and insert the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "(a) Every person, including a federal or state officer or employee
4 who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom or usage,
5 of the United States or the state of Connecticut, unlawfully subjects, or
6 causes to be subjected, any citizen of this state or other person within
7 the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or
8 immunities secured by the United States Constitution, shall be liable to
9 the party injured in an action at law or other proper proceeding for
10 redress."

11 Strike subsection (a) of section 2 in its entirety and insert the
12 following in lieu thereof:

13 "(a) The Attorney General may investigate, intervene in or bring a
14 civil or administrative action in the name of the state, seeking injunctive
15 or declaratory relief, damages, and any other relief that may be available
16 under law, whenever any person is or has engaged in a practice or
17 pattern of conduct, or has established a policy, that:

18 (1) Subjects, or causes to be subjected, other persons to the unlawful
19 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
20 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States; or

21 (2) [Interferes] Unlawfully interferes, or attempts to interfere, by
22 threats, intimidation or coercion, with the lawful exercise or enjoyment
23 by other persons of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
24 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States."

25 Strike subsection (c) of section 2 in its entirety and insert the following
26 in lieu thereof:

27 "(c) The Attorney General may investigate, intervene in or bring a
28 civil or administrative action in the name of the state, seeking injunctive
29 or declaratory relief, damages and any other relief that may be available
30 under law, whenever any person, acting under color of any statute,
31 ordinance, regulation, custom or usage, of the United States or the state
32 of Connecticut:

33 (1) Unlawfully subjects, or causes to be subjected, other persons to the
34 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
35 Constitution of the United States or the state Constitution; or

36 (2) Unlawfully interferes, or attempts to interfere, by physical
37 obstruction, threats, intimidation or coercion, with the lawful exercise
38 or enjoyment by other persons of any rights, privileges or immunities
39 secured by the Constitution of the United States or the state
40 Constitution."

41 Strike subsection (b) of section 6 in its entirety and insert the
42 following in lieu thereof:

43 "(b) A peace officer, while carrying out the enforcement of laws of this
44 state, any other state or the United States, shall not wear any facial
45 covering or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the
46 performance of such officer's duties, except for (1) a medical grade facial
47 covering that is designed to protect the health and safety of the peace
48 officer, provided protecting the health and safety of the officer does not
49 include protecting the identity of the peace officer, (2) any facial
50 covering designed to prevent the transmission of airborne diseases, (3)
51 any facial covering designed to protect against exposure to smoke
52 during a fire-involved situation, (4) any facial covering necessary to
53 perform duties during a water rescue operation, (5) any facial covering
54 related to protection against exposure to biological or chemical agents
55 during an incident where such agents may be present, (6) any facial
56 covering protecting against freezing temperatures, provided such facial
57 covering is worn during an activity not requiring oral communication
58 with the public or a person sought to be placed in custody, or (7) any
59 facial covering necessary to perform duties during an active undercover
60 operation or assignment which have been authorized to be worn by
61 supervising personnel or court order. Notwithstanding the provisions
62 of this subsection, a peace officer assigned to a bomb squad, motorcycle
63 unit or specialized weapons and tactics team, or a peace officer who
64 utilizes an all-terrain vehicle or similar motorized vehicle in the
65 performance of such officer's official duties, is permitted to utilize gear
66 necessary to protect such officer's face and head from physical harm
67 while performing the duties associated with such assignment. Any
68 peace officer who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be
69 guilty of a class D misdemeanor."

70 Strike subsection (d) of section 6 in its entirety

71 Strike subsection (b) of section 7 in its entirety and insert the
72 following in lieu thereof:

73 "(b) No peace officer, as defined in section 51-277a of the general
74 statutes, as amended by this act, shall detain, arrest or otherwise take an
75 individual in a protected area, state facility or municipal facility into

76 custody on the basis of a civil offense, unless (1) such peace officer is
77 acting in the peace officer's official capacity, and (2) the individual to be
78 detained, arrested or otherwise taken into custody is (A) the subject of a
79 judicial warrant, or (B) such peace officer had a good faith belief, at the
80 time of the detention, that such individual was the subject of a criminal
81 investigation."