



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5077



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 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subdivision (9) of section 53a-3 of the 2026 supplement to
4 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
5 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

6 (9) "Peace officer" means a member of the Division of State Police
7 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or
8 an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in
9 the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising
10 authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial
11 marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a
12 conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section

13 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a
14 special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a, 29-18b or 29-
15 19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction
16 authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a
17 correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations
18 unit of the office of the State Treasurer, an inspector of motor vehicles in
19 the Department of Motor Vehicles, who is certified under the provisions
20 of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, [a United States marshal or
21 deputy marshal, any special agent of the federal government authorized
22 to enforce the provisions of Title 21 of the United States Code] any
23 federal law enforcement officer, as defined in 18 USC 115(c)(1) and 34
24 USC 50301(5), or a member of a law enforcement unit of the
25 Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of
26 Connecticut created and governed by a memorandum of agreement
27 under section 47-65c who is certified as a police officer by the Police
28 Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to
29 7-294e, inclusive;

30 Strike subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section
31 3 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

32 "(A) "Peace officer" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision
33 (9) of section 53a-3, as amended by this act;"

34 Strike section 4 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
35 and internal references accordingly

36 Strike subsection (a) of section 5 in its entirety and insert the
37 following in lieu thereof:

38 "(a) There is established the Office of the Inspector General that shall
39 be a separate office within the Division of Criminal Justice. Not later
40 than October 1, 2021, the Criminal Justice Commission established
41 pursuant to section 51-275a shall appoint a deputy chief state's attorney
42 as Inspector General who shall lead the Office of the Inspector General.
43 The office shall: (1) Conduct investigations of peace officers in

44 accordance with section 51-277a, as amended by this act; (2) prosecute
45 any case in which the Inspector General determines a peace officer used
46 force found to not be justifiable pursuant to section 53a-22 or where a
47 police officer or correction officer fails to intervene in any such incident
48 or to report any such incident, as required under subsection (a) of
49 section 7-282e or section 18-81nn, as applicable; (3) investigate any
50 failure to report the death of a person in accordance with the provisions
51 of section 7-294mm; (4) investigate any failure to report in accordance
52 with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 7-294d;
53 (5) investigate the death of a person within the physical custody of a
54 peace officer or law enforcement agency or the Commissioner of
55 Correction in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of
56 subsection (a) of section 51-277a, as amended by this act; and [(5)] (6)
57 make recommendations to the Police Officer Standards and Training
58 Council established under section 7-294b concerning censure and
59 suspension, renewal, cancelation or revocation of a peace officer's
60 certification, provided in the case of a failure to report a death of a
61 person, any such recommendation may be made to said council only in
62 a case where such failure is found to be intentional or made with
63 reckless indifference, or if there is no finding that such failure was
64 intentional or made with reckless indifference, a recommendation may
65 be made to the officer's employing agency for any further disciplinary
66 action as so determined by such employing agency. As used in this
67 subsection, "peace officer" has the same meaning as provided in
68 subdivision (9) of section 53a-3, as amended by this act."

69 Strike subsection (a) of section 6 in its entirety and insert the
70 following in lieu thereof:

71 "(a) As used in this section: (1) "Peace officer" has the same meaning
72 as provided in subdivision (9) of section 53a-3 of the general statutes, as
73 amended by this act; and (2) "facial covering" means any opaque mask,
74 garment, helmet, headgear or other item that conceals or obscures the
75 facial identity of an individual, including, but not limited to, a balaclava,
76 tactical mask, gator, ski mask and any similar type of facial covering or

77 face-shielding item."

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

80 "(b) No peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 53a-3 of
81 the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall detain, arrest or
82 otherwise take an individual in a protected area, state facility or
83 municipal facility into custody on the basis of a civil offense, unless (1)
84 such peace officer is acting in the peace officer's official capacity, and (2)
85 the individual to be detained, arrested or otherwise taken into custody
86 is the subject of a judicial warrant."

87 Strike subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 9 in its entirety and
88 insert the following in lieu thereof:

89 "(2) The council shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of
90 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in another
91 state or, if the applicant is a veteran or a member of the armed forces or
92 the National Guard, as part of training during service in the armed
93 forces, that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in this
94 state, provided such applicant passes an examination or evaluation as
95 required by the council. The council shall not waive any portion of the
96 required basic training program for any applicant who has previously
97 served as a peace officer, or who, at the time the application is made, is
98 -serving as a peace officer, unless the applicant presents evidence of
99 satisfactorily completing a substantially equivalent training or
100 educational program, which includes a minimum of four hundred
101 eighty hours of training. Nothing in this section shall require the council
102 to waive any portion of the required basic training program for any
103 applicant who has previously served as a peace officer, or who, at the
104 time the application is made, is serving as a peace officer. For the
105 purposes of this [section,] subsection, (A) "veteran" and "armed forces"
106 have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103, and (B) "peace
107 officer" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (9) of section
108 53a-3, as amended by this act. "

109 Strike subsection (a) of section 10 in its entirety and insert the
110 following in lieu thereof:

111 "(a) For the purposes of this section, "peace officer" has the same
112 meaning as provided in section 53a-3, as amended by this act except
113 "peace officer" does not include a special agent of the federal
114 government or a member of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket
115 Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut."

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

118 "(a) No law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, shall hire
119 any person as a police officer, as defined in said section 7-294a, who was
120 previously employed as a [police] peace officer, as defined in
121 subdivision (9) of section 53a-3, as amended by this act, by such unit or
122 in any other jurisdiction and who (1) was dismissed for malfeasance or
123 other serious misconduct calling into question such person's fitness to
124 serve as a [police] peace officer; or (2) resigned or retired from such
125 officer's position while under investigation for such malfeasance or
126 other serious misconduct."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	53a-3(9)