



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 5236***

LCO No. 1401



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING WORKPLACE HEALTH, SAFETY AND  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT WORKERS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) (1) There is established  
2 a Public Transit Workplace Health, Safety and Violence Prevention  
3 Committee, which shall be in the Department of Transportation for  
4 administrative purposes only. The committee shall consist of (A) two  
5 public transit bus operators from each transit district formed under  
6 chapter 103a of the general statutes appointed pursuant to subdivision  
7 (2) of this subsection, and (B) two representatives of management from  
8 each transit district appointed by the board of directors of such transit  
9 district. The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's  
10 designee, shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the committee.

11 (2) If public transit bus operators employed by a transit district are  
12 members of a collective bargaining unit, the employee organization  
13 designated as the exclusive bargaining representative for such unit shall  
14 appoint the two public transit bus operators to such committee. If public  
15 transit bus operators are not members of a collective bargaining unit,

16 the public transit bus operators appointed to such committee shall be  
17 selected through a process determined by the public transit bus  
18 operators employed in such transit district.

19 (3) All initial appointments to the committee shall be made not later  
20 than November 1, 2026, and shall terminate on October 31, 2028,  
21 regardless of when the initial appointment was made. Any member of  
22 the committee may serve more than one term.

23 (4) The committee shall have two cochairpersons, one of whom shall  
24 be a public transit bus operator elected by the members of the committee  
25 who are public transit bus operators, and one of whom shall be elected  
26 by members of the committee who are representatives of management  
27 from transit districts.

28 (b) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's  
29 designee, shall select two acting cochairpersons of the committee from  
30 its members for the purpose of organizing the first committee meeting,  
31 one of whom shall be a public transit bus operator and one of whom  
32 shall be a representative of the management of a transit district. Such  
33 acting cochairpersons shall schedule and convene the first meeting,  
34 which shall be held not later than December 1, 2026. During the first  
35 meeting of the committee, (1) the members of the committee who are  
36 public transit bus operators shall appoint, by majority vote, a permanent  
37 cochairperson who is a public transit bus operator, and (2) the members  
38 of the committee who represent the management of a transit district  
39 shall appoint, by majority vote, a permanent cochairperson who  
40 represents the management of a transit district.

41 (c) Appointed members of the committee shall serve for two-year  
42 terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as  
43 provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section. Members  
44 shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed.

45 (d) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any  
46 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the

47 balance of the unexpired term.

48 (e) The Department of Transportation shall assist the committee in  
49 carrying out the committee's duties by posting on the department's  
50 Internet web site records related to the committee's responsibilities,  
51 including, but not limited to, the committee's meeting schedule, agenda,  
52 minutes, plans and reports.

53 (f) The committee shall meet in person at least once a month and at  
54 such other times as the cochairpersons deem necessary. A majority of  
55 the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the  
56 transaction of any business. Decisions of the committee shall be made  
57 by majority vote of the members present at any meeting.

58 (g) The committee shall have the following powers and duties: (1)  
59 Adopt, review and revise as necessary a workplace health, safety and  
60 violence protection plan pursuant to subsections (h) and (i) of this  
61 section; (2) obtain from any executive department, board, commission  
62 or other agency of the state such assistance and data as necessary and  
63 available to carry out the purposes of this section; (3) accept any gift,  
64 donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the duties described  
65 in this section; and (4) perform such other acts as may be necessary and  
66 appropriate to carry out the duties described in this section.

67 (h) Not later than January 1, 2028, the committee shall adopt an initial  
68 workplace health, safety and violence protection plan that establishes  
69 comprehensive and uniform protocols and procedures to address  
70 workplace issues in transit districts. Such plan shall include: (1)  
71 Procedures regarding the safe pick-up and discharge of passengers,  
72 including passengers who require assistance, (2) protections for the  
73 physical and mental health of public transit employees while  
74 performing their duties, including the provision of reasonable breaks  
75 throughout a shift and access to designated restrooms for public transit  
76 bus operators, (3) risk reduction efforts to decrease the number and rates  
77 of accidents, injuries and workplace violence, including assault of a

78 person who is a public transit employee, as provided in section 53a-167c  
79 of the general statutes, (4) guidance to public transit employees  
80 concerning how to report (A) incidents of workplace violence within  
81 each transit district and to appropriate law enforcement agencies, and  
82 (B) unsafe working conditions within each transit district, (5)  
83 procedures for the reporting and collecting of data detailing accidents,  
84 injuries and workplace violence for the purpose of establishing risk  
85 reduction targets and monitoring progress to improve workplace health  
86 and safety and reduce workplace violence, (6) the development of, and  
87 schedule regarding, appropriate training programs, including safety  
88 operations and de-escalation strategies, to be completed by all public  
89 transit employees and management, and (7) any other issue the  
90 committee deems appropriate. No provision in such plan shall conflict  
91 with any state or federal law regarding the safe operation of public  
92 transit buses, including motor vehicle and traffic laws, reporting of  
93 crimes or requirements for public transit bus operators to maintain a  
94 commercial driver's license pursuant to section 14-44 of the general  
95 statutes.

96 (i) Not later than January 1, 2029, and at least annually thereafter, the  
97 committee shall review such plan and may revise such plan as the  
98 committee deems appropriate.

99 (j) In the event the committee fails to adopt a plan in accordance with  
100 the provisions of this section, the cochairpersons of the committee shall  
101 submit the dispute to the Board of Mediation and Arbitration in  
102 accordance with the procedure set forth in section 31-97 of the general  
103 statutes and shall incorporate the decision rendered under the  
104 provisions of section 31-98 of the general statutes into the plan.

105 (k) Any collective bargaining agreement between a transit district  
106 and an employee organization entered into or modified after the date a  
107 plan is adopted pursuant to the provisions of this section shall  
108 incorporate such plan by reference.

109 (l) The committee shall (1) submit each plan adopted pursuant to this  
110 section to the members of the committee, employee organizations that  
111 are the exclusive representative public transit employees, the board of  
112 directors of each transit district, the Department of Transportation and  
113 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
114 cognizance of matters relating to transportation, and (2) have each such  
115 plan published in a conspicuous place on the Department of  
116 Transportation's Internet web site.

117 (m) No transit district may take or threaten to take any retaliatory  
118 action against an employee of such transit district who notifies a law  
119 enforcement agency or the management of such transit district to report  
120 incidents of workplace violence or violations of the workplace health,  
121 safety and violence protection plan adopted pursuant to this section.

122 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 4-9a of the general statutes is repealed  
123 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

124 (a) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson and executive  
125 director, if any, of all boards and commissions within the Executive  
126 Department, except the State Properties Review Board, the State  
127 Elections Enforcement Commission, the Commission on Human Rights  
128 and Opportunities, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, the  
129 Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board, [and] the Transportation Policy  
130 Advisory Council and the Public Transit Workplace Health, Safety and  
131 Violence Prevention Committee.

132 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,  
133 "security barrier" means a protective partition made of hard, durable  
134 and bulletproof materials designed to shield a public transit bus  
135 operator from physical assault or projectiles while maintaining visibility  
136 and communication with passengers that (1) extends from the bus floor  
137 to the bus ceiling, (2) is capable of fully enclosing the public transit bus  
138 operator's workstation and fully preventing the unwanted entry of  
139 persons, limbs, fluids and objects into such workstation, and (3) does

140 not impede the public transit bus operator's lines of sight from such  
141 workstation to the exterior of the bus.

142 (b) On and after October 1, 2027, each public transit bus operated by  
143 the Department of Transportation or a transit district formed under  
144 chapter 103a of the general statutes shall be equipped with a security  
145 barrier.

146 (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of  
147 Transportation and each transit district formed under chapter 103a of  
148 the general statutes, in consultation with the labor organizations that  
149 represent public transit bus operators employed by such transit  
150 districts, shall (1) collaborate regarding (A) the use of security barriers  
151 on public transit buses, including design, materials, specifications,  
152 procurement and installation, (B) the use of panic buttons or other  
153 technology designed to mitigate safety risks to public transit bus  
154 operators, and (C) the development and installation of prominent  
155 signage on board all public transit buses that inform the public of the  
156 penalties for crimes against public transit bus operators, and (2) develop  
157 a plan and timeline for the installation of security barriers on public  
158 transit buses in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this  
159 section. Not later than January 15, 2027, the commissioner shall submit  
160 such plan and timeline to the joint standing committee of the General  
161 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, in  
162 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	4-9a(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**  
To (1) establish a Public Transit Workplace Health, Safety and Violence Prevention Committee, and (2) require each public transit bus operated by the Department of Transportation or a transit district to be equipped

with a security barrier for the protection and safety of public transit bus operators.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*