



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 3977



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 397

File No. 399

Cal. No. 245

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Every person or entity,
4 including a federal or state officer or employee who, under color of any
5 statute, ordinance, regulation, custom or usage, of the United States or
6 the state of Connecticut, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen
7 of this state or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the
8 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
9 United States Constitution, shall be liable to the party injured in an
10 action at law or other proper proceeding for redress.

11 (b) (1) In a civil action brought pursuant to subsection (a) of this
12 section, if the defendant is held liable, the court may award damages,
13 including, but not limited to, nominal damages, actual damages,

14 compensatory damages, punitive damages, injunctive relief and other
15 appropriate equitable relief, to protect the peaceable exercise or
16 enjoyment of the right or rights secured by the United States
17 Constitution.

18 (2) In a civil action brought pursuant to subsection (a) of this section,
19 if the defendant is held liable, the court shall award the plaintiff
20 reasonable attorney's fees and expenses, unless the court determines
21 that special circumstances would render such an award unjust.

22 (c) It is the intent of the legislature that in construing the provisions
23 of this section, the courts shall be guided by interpretations given by
24 federal and state courts to 42 USC 1983, as amended from time to time,
25 except that under this section an injured person may bring a claim
26 against a federal officer or employee. Any person named as a defendant
27 under the provisions of this section shall be entitled to raise any
28 applicable immunities or defenses under federal or state law, and
29 federal officers or employees shall be immune to the same degree as an
30 equivalent state officer or employee.

31 (d) No provision of this section shall be construed to constitute a
32 waiver of the state's sovereign immunity.

33 Sec. 2. Section 3-129g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
34 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
35 *passage*):

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

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

44 (2) Interferes, or attempts to interfere, by threats, intimidation or
45 coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment by other persons of any rights,
46 privileges or immunities secured by the constitutions or laws of this
47 state or the United States.

48 (b) In conducting any investigation under this section, the Attorney
49 General may issue subpoenas and interrogatories, and otherwise gather
50 information, in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided
51 in section 35-42. No information obtained pursuant to the provisions of
52 this subsection may be used in a criminal proceeding.

53 (c) The Attorney General may investigate, intervene in or bring a civil
54 or administrative action in the name of the state, seeking injunctive or
55 declaratory relief, damages and any other relief that may be available
56 under law, whenever any person, acting under color of any statute,
57 ordinance, regulation, custom or usage, of the United States or the state
58 of Connecticut:

59 (1) Subjects, or causes to be subjected, other persons to the
60 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
61 Constitution of the United States or the state Constitution; or

62 (2) Interferes, or attempts to interfere, by physical obstruction,
63 threats, intimidation or coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment by
64 other persons of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the
65 Constitution of the United States or the state Constitution.

66 [(c)] (d) If the Attorney General prevails in a civil action brought
67 pursuant to this section, the court shall order the distribution of any
68 award of damages to the injured person. In a matter involving the
69 interference or attempted interference with any right protected by the
70 [constitutions of this state or the United States] Constitution of the
71 United States or the state Constitution, the court may also award civil
72 penalties against each defendant in an amount not exceeding two
73 thousand five hundred dollars for each violation, provided such
74 violation has been established by clear and convincing evidence. Any

75 civil penalty that is received pursuant to this subsection shall be
76 deposited in the General Fund.

77 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) In lieu of bringing a civil action under this section, the
78 Attorney General may accept an assurance of the discontinuance of any
79 allegedly unlawful or unconstitutional practice from any person
80 engaged in such practice. Thereafter, any evidence of a violation of such
81 assurance shall constitute prima facie proof of violation of the applicable
82 law or right in any action commenced by the Attorney General.

83 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) Nothing in this section shall limit the right of a person
84 adversely affected by a violation of chapter 814c to file a complaint with
85 the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

86 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Nothing in this section shall limit the jurisdiction of the
87 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities under chapter 814c.

88 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The Attorney General shall not bring an action under the
89 provisions of this section during the pendency of a matter involving the
90 same parties and the same alleged facts and circumstances before the
91 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

92 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) Nothing in this section shall permit the Attorney General to
93 bring an action that would otherwise be barred under the applicable
94 statute of limitations or repose.

95 ~~[(i)]~~ (j) The Attorney General shall post on the Attorney General's
96 Internet web site information on how to properly file a complaint with
97 the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. The Attorney
98 General may, as appropriate, refer cases to the Commission on Human
99 Rights and Opportunities.

100 ~~[(j)]~~ (k) Nothing in this section shall permit the Attorney General to
101 assert any claim against a state agency or a state officer or state
102 employee in such officer's or employee's official capacity, regarding
103 actions or omissions of such state agency, state officer or state employee.
104 If the Attorney General determines that a state officer or state employee

105 is not entitled to indemnification under section 5-141d, the Attorney
106 General may, as relates to such officer or employee, take any action
107 authorized under this section.

108 ~~[(k)]~~ (l) With regard to any action brought pursuant to this section
109 against a person for a pattern or practice of conduct in violation of
110 section 46a-64, 46a-64c, 46a-81d or 46a-81e, or, as a result of an
111 investigation conducted pursuant to this section, of a potential violation
112 of section 46a-64, 46a-64c, 46a-81d or 46a-81e, the Attorney General may
113 petition the superior court for the judicial district in which the violation
114 or alleged violation occurred for any relief available under subsection
115 (b) of section 46a-89, in addition to any relief as described in subsection
116 (a) or (c) of this section.

117 (m) With regard to any action brought pursuant to subsection (c) of
118 this section, the Attorney General may petition the superior court for the
119 judicial district in which the violation or alleged violation occurred for
120 any relief available under this section. Upon filing of the complaint, the
121 court may order any declaratory or temporary injunctive relief required
122 to make the complainant whole. The court shall order a hearing to be
123 had upon such complaint not more than five days after the date of filing
124 the complaint and the Attorney General shall cause notice to be given to
125 any interested party of the time and place for the hearing upon such
126 complaint. A continuance of the hearing may be granted upon consent
127 of the parties. The court shall, on the day fixed for such hearing and
128 without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the parties. The court may
129 order, amend or continue any declaratory or temporary injunctive relief.

130 Sec. 3. Section 51-277a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
131 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
132 *passage*):

133 (a) (1) As used in this section:

134 (A) "Peace officer" means a member of the Division of State Police
135 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or

136 an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in
137 the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising
138 authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial
139 marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a
140 conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section
141 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a
142 special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a, 29-18b or 29-
143 19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction
144 authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a
145 correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations
146 unit of the office of the State Treasurer, an inspector of motor vehicles in
147 the Department of Motor Vehicles, who is certified under the provisions
148 of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, any federal law enforcement
149 officer as defined under 18 USC 115(c)(1) and 34 USC 50301(5), or a
150 member of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or
151 the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut created and governed by
152 a memorandum of agreement under section 47-65c who is certified as a
153 police officer by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council
154 pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive;

155 (B) "Deadly physical force" has the same meaning as provided in
156 section 53a-3; and

157 (C) "Electronic defense weapon" has the same meaning as provided
158 in section 53a-3.

159 [(a) (1)] (2) Whenever a peace officer, in the performance of such
160 officer's duties, uses physical force upon another person and such
161 person dies as a result thereof or uses deadly physical force [, as defined
162 in section 53a-3,] upon another person, the Division of Criminal Justice
163 shall cause an investigation to be made and the Inspector General shall
164 have the responsibility of determining whether the use of physical force
165 by the peace officer was justifiable under section 53a-22, as amended by
166 this act. The use of an electronic defense weapon [, as defined in section
167 53a-3,] by a peace officer shall not be considered deadly physical force
168 for purposes of this section.

169 [(2)] (3) (A) Except as provided under subdivision [(1)] (2) of this
170 subsection, whenever a person dies [in the] within the physical custody
171 of a peace officer or law enforcement agency, the Inspector General shall
172 investigate and determine whether physical force was used by a peace
173 officer upon the deceased person, and if so, whether the use of physical
174 force by the peace officer was justifiable under section 53a-22, as
175 amended by this act. If the Inspector General determines the deceased
176 person may have died as a result of criminal action not involving the
177 use of force by a peace officer, the Inspector General shall refer such case
178 to the Chief State's Attorney or a state's attorney for potential
179 prosecution.

180 (B) Except as provided under subdivision [(1)] (2) of this subsection
181 or subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, [(2) of this subsection,]
182 whenever a person dies [in the] within the physical custody of the
183 Commissioner of Correction, the Inspector General shall investigate and
184 determine whether the deceased person may have died as a result of
185 criminal action, and, if so, refer such case to the Chief State's Attorney
186 or a state's attorney for potential prosecution. The Inspector General
187 may issue a report concerning the death of such person, which may
188 include, but need not be limited to, any recommended future action to
189 be taken by said commissioner.

190 [(3)] (4) Whenever a person who (A) is a next of kin of a deceased
191 person, (B) is not notified of such deceased person's death as required
192 pursuant to section 7-294mm and no other person who is a next of kin
193 of the deceased person was so notified, and (C) requests of the Office of
194 the Inspector General an investigation of the lack of notification or
195 timely notification of such death, the Inspector General shall investigate
196 and determine whether there was any malfeasance on the part of a peace
197 officer, except for a federal law enforcement officer, or a supervisor of
198 the peace officer, except for a federal law enforcement officer, in the
199 failure to provide such notification or timely notification, and if so, may
200 make recommendations to the Police Officer Standards and Training
201 Council established under section 7-294b concerning censure,

202 suspension, renewal, cancelation or revocation of the peace officer's or
203 supervisor's certification, provided any such recommendation may be
204 made to said council only in a case where such failure is found to be
205 intentional or made with reckless indifference. If there is no finding that
206 such failure was intentional or made with reckless indifference, a
207 recommendation may be made to the officer's or supervisor's employing
208 agency for any further disciplinary action as so determined by such
209 employing agency.

210 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) (A) The Inspector General shall request the appropriate law
211 enforcement agency to provide such assistance as is necessary to
212 investigate and make a determination under subdivision [(1), (2) or (3)]
213 (2), (3) or (4) of this subsection.

214 (B) The Division of Criminal Justice and the Inspector General shall
215 have the unrestricted right to access the scene and collect evidence
216 whenever a peace officer, in the performance of such officer's duties,
217 uses physical force upon another person and such person dies as a result
218 thereof or uses deadly physical force, or a person dies in the custody of
219 a peace officer or law enforcement agency, regardless of whether such
220 incident involved only peace officers employed by the federal
221 government and did not involve any peace officer employed by the state
222 or a municipality.

223 (C) If any person restricts the Division of Criminal Justice or the
224 Inspector General's right to access the scene and collect evidence as set
225 forth in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the Division of Criminal
226 Justice or the Inspector General may bring an action in the Superior
227 Court for injunctive relief against any person who has committed the
228 violation. Upon filing of the complaint, the court may order any
229 declaratory or temporary injunctive relief required to make the
230 complainant whole. The court shall order a hearing to be had upon such
231 complaint not more than five days after the date of filing the complaint
232 and the Division of Criminal Justice or the Inspector General shall cause
233 notice to be given to any interested party of the time and place for the
234 hearing upon such complaint. A continuance of the hearing date may be

235 granted upon consent of the parties. The court shall, on the day fixed for
236 such hearing and without unnecessary delay, proceed to hear the
237 parties. The court may order, amend or continue any declaratory or
238 temporary injunctive relief.

239 [(5)] (6) Whenever a peace officer, in the performance of such officer's
240 duties, uses physical force or deadly physical force upon another person
241 and such person dies as a result thereof, the Inspector General shall
242 complete a preliminary status report that shall include, but need not be
243 limited to, (A) the name of the deceased person, (B) the gender, race,
244 ethnicity and age of the deceased person, (C) the date, time and location
245 of the injury causing such death, (D) the law enforcement agency
246 involved, (E) the status on the toxicology report, if available, and (F) the
247 death certificate, if available. The Inspector General shall complete the
248 report and submit a copy of such report not later than five business days
249 after the cause of the death is available to the Chief State's Attorney and,
250 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
251 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
252 relating to the judiciary and public safety.

253 (b) Upon the conclusion of the investigation of an incident described
254 in subdivision [(1) or] (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of this section, the
255 Inspector General shall file a report with the Chief State's Attorney
256 which shall contain the following: (1) The circumstances of the incident,
257 (2) a determination of whether the use of physical force by the peace
258 officer was justifiable under section 53a-22, as amended by this act, and
259 (3) any recommended future action to be taken by the [Office of the
260 Inspector General] law enforcement agency as a result of the incident.
261 The Chief State's Attorney shall provide a copy of the report to the chief
262 executive officer of the municipality in which the incident occurred and
263 to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection or the
264 chief of police of such municipality, as the case may be, and shall make
265 such report available to the public on the Division of Criminal Justice's
266 Internet web site not later than forty-eight hours after the copies are
267 provided to the chief executive officer and the commissioner or chief of

268 police.

269 (c) The Office of the Inspector General shall prosecute any case in
270 which the Inspector General determines that (1) the use of force by a
271 peace officer was not justifiable under section 53a-22, as amended by
272 this act, or (2) there was a failure to intervene in such incident or to
273 report any such incident, as required under subsection (a) of section 7-
274 282e or section 18-81nn.

275 Sec. 4. Section 53a-22 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
276 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
277 *passage*):

278 (a) (1) For purposes of this section: [, a] (A) A reasonable belief that a
279 person has committed an offense means a reasonable belief in facts or
280 circumstances which if true would in law constitute an offense. If the
281 believed facts or circumstances would not in law constitute an offense,
282 an erroneous though not unreasonable belief that the law is otherwise
283 does not render justifiable the use of physical force to make an arrest or
284 to prevent an escape from custody; and (B) notwithstanding the
285 provisions of subdivision (9) of section 53a-3, "peace officer" has the
286 same meaning as provided in section 51-277a, as amended by this act.

287 (2) A peace officer or an authorized official of the Department of
288 Correction or the Board of Pardons and Paroles who is effecting an
289 arrest pursuant to a warrant or preventing an escape from custody is
290 justified in using the physical force prescribed in subsections (b), (c) and
291 (d) of this section unless such warrant is invalid and is known by such
292 officer to be invalid.

293 (b) Except as provided in subsection (a) or (d) of this section, a peace
294 officer or an authorized official of the Department of Correction or the
295 Board of Pardons and Paroles is justified in using physical force upon
296 another person when and to the extent that he or she reasonably believes
297 such use to be necessary to: (1) Effect an arrest or prevent the escape
298 from custody of a person whom he or she reasonably believes to have

299 committed an offense, unless he or she knows that the arrest or custody
300 is unauthorized; or (2) defend himself or herself or a third person from
301 the use or imminent use of physical force while effecting or attempting
302 to effect an arrest or while preventing or attempting to prevent an
303 escape.

304 (c) (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a peace
305 officer or an authorized official of the Department of Correction or the
306 Board of Pardons and Paroles is justified in using deadly physical force
307 upon another person for the purposes specified in subsection (b) of this
308 section only when his or her actions are objectively reasonable under the
309 given circumstances at that time, and:

310 (A) He or she reasonably believes such use to be necessary to defend
311 himself or herself or a third person from the use or imminent use of
312 deadly physical force; or

313 (B) He or she (i) has reasonably determined that there are no available
314 reasonable alternatives to the use of deadly physical force, (ii)
315 reasonably believes that the force employed creates no unreasonable
316 risk of injury to a third party, and (iii) reasonably believes such use of
317 force to be necessary to (I) effect an arrest of a person whom he or she
318 reasonably believes has committed or attempted to commit a felony
319 which involved the infliction of serious physical injury, and if, where
320 feasible, he or she has given warning of his or her intent to use deadly
321 physical force, or (II) prevent the escape from custody of a person whom
322 he or she reasonably believes has committed a felony which involved
323 the infliction of serious physical injury and who poses a significant
324 threat of death or serious physical injury to others, and if, where feasible,
325 he or she has given warning of his or her intent to use deadly physical
326 force.

327 (2) For purposes of evaluating whether actions of a peace officer or
328 an authorized official of the Department of Correction or the Board of
329 Pardons and Paroles are reasonable under subdivision (1) of this
330 subsection, factors to be considered include, but are not limited to,

331 whether (A) the person upon whom deadly physical force was used
332 possessed or appeared to possess a deadly weapon, (B) the peace officer
333 or an authorized official of the Department of Correction or the Board
334 of Pardons and Paroles engaged in reasonable deescalation measures
335 prior to using deadly physical force, and (C) any unreasonable conduct
336 of the peace officer or an authorized official of the Department of
337 Correction or the Board of Pardons and Paroles led to an increased risk
338 of an occurrence of the situation that precipitated the use of such force.

339 (d) A peace officer or an authorized official of the Department of
340 Correction or the Board of Pardons and Paroles is justified in using a
341 chokehold or other method of restraint applied to the neck area or that
342 otherwise impedes the ability to breathe or restricts blood circulation to
343 the brain of another person for the purposes specified in subsection (b)
344 of this section only when he or she reasonably believes such use to be
345 necessary to defend himself or herself or a third person from the use or
346 imminent use of deadly physical force.

347 (e) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a person who
348 has been directed by a peace officer or an authorized official of the
349 Department of Correction or the Board of Pardons and Paroles to assist
350 such peace officer or official to effect an arrest or to prevent an escape
351 from custody is justified in using reasonable physical force when and to
352 the extent that he or she reasonably believes such to be necessary to
353 carry out such peace officer's or official's direction.

354 (f) A person who has been directed to assist a peace officer or an
355 authorized official of the Department of Correction or the Board of
356 Pardons and Paroles under circumstances specified in subsection (e) of
357 this section may use deadly physical force to effect an arrest or to
358 prevent an escape from custody only when: (1) He or she reasonably
359 believes such use to be necessary to defend himself or herself or a third
360 person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or
361 imminent use of deadly physical force; or (2) he or she is directed or
362 authorized by such peace officer or official to use deadly physical force,
363 unless he or she knows that the peace officer or official himself or herself

364 is not authorized to use deadly physical force under the circumstances.

365 (g) A private person acting on his or her own account is justified in
366 using reasonable physical force upon another person when and to the
367 extent that he or she reasonably believes such use to be necessary to
368 effect an arrest or to prevent the escape from custody of an arrested
369 person whom he or she reasonably believes to have committed an
370 offense and who in fact has committed such offense; but he or she is not
371 justified in using deadly physical force in such circumstances, except in
372 defense of person as prescribed in section 53a-19.

373 (h) In determining whether use of force by a peace officer who is a
374 police officer, as defined in subsection (a) of section 29-6d, is justified
375 pursuant to this section, the trier of fact may draw an unfavorable
376 inference from a police officer's deliberate failure in violation of section
377 29-6d to record such use of physical force.

378 Sec. 5. Section 51-277e of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
379 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
380 *passage*):

381 (a) There is established the Office of the Inspector General that shall
382 be a separate office within the Division of Criminal Justice. Not later
383 than October 1, 2021, the Criminal Justice Commission established
384 pursuant to section 51-275a shall appoint a deputy chief state's attorney
385 as Inspector General who shall lead the Office of the Inspector General.
386 The office shall: (1) Conduct investigations of peace officers in
387 accordance with section 51-277a, as amended by this act; (2) prosecute
388 any case in which the Inspector General determines a peace officer used
389 force found to not be justifiable pursuant to section 53a-22, as amended
390 by this act, or where a police officer or correction officer fails to intervene
391 in any such incident or to report any such incident, as required under
392 subsection (a) of section 7-282e or section 18-81nn, as applicable; (3)
393 investigate any failure to report the death of a person in accordance with
394 the provisions of section 7-294mm; (4) investigate any failure to report
395 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of

396 section 7-294d; (5) investigate the death of a person within the physical
397 custody of a peace officer or law enforcement agency or the
398 Commissioner of Correction in accordance with the provisions of
399 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 51-277a, as amended by this
400 act; and [(5)] (6) make recommendations to the Police Officer Standards
401 and Training Council established under section 7-294b concerning
402 censure and suspension, renewal, cancelation or revocation of a peace
403 officer's certification, provided in the case of a failure to report a death
404 of a person, any such recommendation may be made to said council only
405 in a case where such failure is found to be intentional or made with
406 reckless indifference, or if there is no finding that such failure was
407 intentional or made with reckless indifference, a recommendation may
408 be made to the officer's employing agency for any further disciplinary
409 action as so determined by such employing agency. As used in this
410 subsection, "peace officer" has the same meaning as provided in section
411 51-277a, as amended by this act.

412 (b) The Inspector General shall serve a term of four years from July
413 first in the year of the appointment unless sooner removed by the
414 Criminal Justice Commission. The commission shall not be precluded
415 from reappointing an individual who has previously served as
416 Inspector General.

417 (c) An Inspector General may be removed or otherwise disciplined
418 only in accordance with section 51-278b.

419 (d) The Inspector General may issue subpoenas to municipalities, law
420 enforcement units, as defined in section 7-294, the Department of
421 Correction and any employee or former employee of the municipality,
422 unit or department (1) requiring the production of reports, records or
423 other documents concerning an investigation described in subsection (a)
424 of this section that is undertaken by the Inspector General, and (2)
425 compelling the attendance and testimony of any person having
426 knowledge pertinent to such investigation at an investigative deposition
427 conducted by the Inspector General, or the Inspector General's designee.

428 (e) A chief of police of a municipality, the Commissioner of
429 Emergency Services and Public Protection or the Commissioner of
430 Correction may refer and the Inspector General shall accept any such
431 referral of an incident described in subsection (a) of this section for
432 purposes of an investigation.

433 (f) The Office of the Inspector General shall be at a location that is
434 separate from the locations of the Office of the Chief State's Attorney or
435 any of the state's attorneys for the judicial districts.

436 (g) The Inspector General may employ necessary staff to fulfil the
437 duties of the Office of the Inspector General described in subsection (a)
438 of this section. Such staff shall be selected by the Inspector General
439 within the confines of any existing collective bargaining agreement and
440 shall include, but not be limited to, an assistant state's attorney or a
441 deputy assistant state's attorney, an inspector and administrative staff.
442 As needed by and upon request of the Inspector General, the Office of
443 the Chief State's Attorney shall ensure assistance from additional
444 assistant state's attorneys or deputy assistant state's attorneys,
445 inspectors and administrative staff.

446 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section: (1)
447 "Peace officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 51-277a of
448 the general statutes, as amended by this act; and (2) "facial covering"
449 means any opaque mask, garment, helmet, headgear or other item that
450 conceals or obscures the facial identity of an individual, including, but
451 not limited to, a balaclava, tactical mask, gator, ski mask and any similar
452 type of facial covering or face-shielding item.

453 (b) A peace officer, while carrying out the enforcement of laws of this
454 state, any other state or the United States, shall not wear any facial
455 covering or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the
456 performance of such officer's duties, except for (1) a medical grade facial
457 covering that is designed to protect the health and safety of the peace
458 officer, provided protecting the health and safety of the officer does not
459 include protecting the identity of the peace officer, (2) any facial

460 covering designed to prevent the transmission of airborne diseases, (3)
461 any facial covering designed to protect against exposure to smoke
462 during a fire-involved situation, (4) any facial covering necessary to
463 perform duties during a water rescue operation, (5) any facial covering
464 related to protection against exposure to biological or chemical agents
465 during an incident where such agents may be present, (6) any facial
466 covering protecting against freezing temperatures, provided such facial
467 covering is worn during an activity not requiring oral communication
468 with the public or a person sought to be placed in custody, or (7) any
469 facial covering necessary to perform duties during an active undercover
470 operation or assignment which have been authorized to be worn by
471 supervising personnel or court order. Notwithstanding the provisions
472 of this subsection, a peace officer assigned to a bomb squad, motorcycle
473 unit or specialized weapons and tactics team is permitted to utilize gear
474 necessary to protect such officer's face and head from physical harm
475 while performing the duties associated with such assignment.

476 (c) In accordance with the provisions of section 7-294ii of the general
477 statutes, a peace officer, who is conducting a planned arrest or
478 interacting with the public in such officer's official capacity and is
479 authorized to make arrests, shall be clearly identified by such officer's
480 badge and name tag on the officer's uniform, unless (1) such officer is
481 performing duties during an active undercover assignment authorized
482 by supervising personnel, (2) compliance is excused pursuant to the
483 model policy adopted pursuant to section 7-294ii of the general statutes,
484 (3) compliance is excused pursuant to a court order, or (4) while in the
485 performance of such officer's duties, weather-related events or traffic
486 safety issues exist that prevent such officer from having a name tag or
487 badge on such officer's outer garment.

488 (d) Any peace officer who violates the provisions of subsection (b) or
489 (c) of this section shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

490 (e) Notwithstanding any other law, any peace officer who is found to
491 have committed an intentional tort of assault, battery, false
492 imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process or malicious prosecution

493 pursuant to state law or 28 USC 2680(h), while wearing a facial covering
494 or personal disguise in a knowing and wilful violation of this section,
495 shall not be entitled to assert any privilege or immunity for such officer's
496 tortious conduct against a claim of civil liability.

497 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No armed military force from
498 another state, territory or district is permitted to enter the state of
499 Connecticut for the purpose of engaging in military duty or law
500 enforcement within this state without the express written permission of
501 the Governor of this state, unless such force has been called into active
502 service of the United States and is acting under authority of the
503 President of the United States.

504 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

505 (1) "Protected area" means any of the following buildings or locations,
506 including the grounds of such buildings or locations and any garages or
507 parking lots utilized in the operation of such buildings or locations,
508 irrespective of whether such garages or parking lots are contiguous to
509 the buildings or locations:

510 (A) A school, including, but not limited to, a preschool, primary or
511 secondary school, vocational school or college or university;

512 (B) A hospital licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 368v of
513 the general statutes or an urgent care center, as defined in section 19a-
514 493d of the general statutes;

515 (C) A place of worship or religious study;

516 (D) A playground, recreation center, child care center, before or after-
517 school care center, foster care facility, group home for children or school
518 bus stop when children are present;

519 (E) A social services establishment, including, but not limited to, a
520 crisis center, domestic violence shelter, victims services center, child
521 advocacy center, supervised visitation center, family justice center,

522 facility that serves disabled persons, homeless shelter, drug or alcohol
523 counseling and treatment facility, or food bank, pantry or other
524 establishment distributing food or other essentials of life to people in
525 need;

526 (F) A place where disaster or emergency response and relief is
527 provided, including, but not limited to, such places along evacuation
528 routes, where shelter or emergency supplies, food or water are being
529 distributed, or registration for disaster-related assistance or family
530 reunification is underway; or

531 (G) A cemetery or other place of internment for the deceased.

532 (2) "State facility" means any building, or part thereof, owned, leased,
533 occupied, controlled by or used for business by an office or agency of
534 the Executive Department or the Judicial Branch, either directly or
535 indirectly, including, but not limited to, entities providing direct
536 services on behalf of offices or agencies, but not including state-owned
537 property leased to a federal entity or courthouse grounds subject to the
538 provisions of section 51-33b of the general statutes. "State facility"
539 includes the grounds of such facility and any garages or parking lots
540 utilized in the operation of such facility, irrespective of whether such
541 garages or parking lots are contiguous to the facility.

542 (3) "Municipal facility" means any building or part thereof, owned,
543 leased, occupied, controlled by or used for business by a municipal
544 government, either directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to,
545 entities providing direct services on behalf of a municipal government.
546 "Municipal facility" includes the grounds of such facility and any
547 garages or parking lots utilized in the operation of such facility,
548 irrespective of whether such garages or parking lots are contiguous to
549 the facility.

550 (4) "Civil offense" means an offense for which a local, state or federal
551 civil proceeding is available to the charged individual to offer a defense.
552 "Civil offense" does not include any offense identified as an infraction

553 by the general statutes, a motor vehicle violation or an arrest allowed
554 (A) for an alleged violation of the criminal law of: (i) The state or another
555 jurisdiction within the United States, for which a sentence of a term of
556 imprisonment is authorized by law; or (ii) the United States, for which
557 a sentence of a term of imprisonment is authorized by law, and for
558 which federal law requires an initial appearance before a federal judge,
559 federal magistrate or other judicial officer, pursuant to the federal rules
560 of criminal procedure that govern initial appearances; (B) for contempt
561 of court; (C) for a *capias* issued by a judge; (D) in response to a warrant
562 for a violation of parole or probation; or (E) for commitment under
563 emergency certificate or other arrest permitted under chapter 319i of the
564 general statutes.

565 (b) No peace officer, as defined in section 51-277a of the general
566 statutes, as amended by this act, shall detain, arrest or otherwise take an
567 individual in a protected area, state facility or municipal facility into
568 custody on the basis of a civil offense, unless (1) such peace officer is
569 acting in the peace officer's official capacity, and (2) the individual to be
570 detained, arrested or otherwise taken into custody is the subject of a
571 judicial warrant.

572 (c) (1) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this section may
573 bring a civil action for equitable relief or damages in the Superior Court.
574 A civil action brought for damages may be triable by jury.

575 (2) In any action pursuant to this section, the court may grant a
576 plaintiff such legal and equitable relief which it deems appropriate,
577 including, but not limited to, temporary or permanent injunctive relief,
578 punitive damages, attorney's fees and court costs.

579 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is
580 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
581 *passage*):

582 (b) (1) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law
583 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person

584 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
585 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve
586 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification
587 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection
588 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection, the
589 council may establish other qualifications for the employment of police
590 officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these qualifications. The
591 certification of any police officer who is not employed by a law
592 enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of two years, unless such
593 officer is on leave of absence, shall be considered lapsed. Upon
594 reemployment as a police officer, such officer shall apply for
595 recertification in a manner provided by the council, provided such
596 recertification process requires the police officer to submit to a urinalysis
597 drug test that screens for controlled substances, including, but not
598 limited to, anabolic steroids, and receive a result indicating no presence
599 of any controlled substance not prescribed for the officer.

600 (2) The council shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of
601 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in another
602 state or, if the applicant is a veteran or a member of the armed forces or
603 the National Guard, as part of training during service in the armed
604 forces, that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in this
605 state, provided such applicant passes an examination or evaluation as
606 required by the council. The council shall not waive any portion of the
607 required basic training program for any applicant who has previously
608 served as a peace officer, or who, at the time the application is made, is
609 -serving as a peace officer, unless the applicant presents evidence of
610 satisfactorily completing a substantially equivalent training or
611 educational program, which includes a minimum of four hundred
612 eighty hours of training. Nothing in this section shall require the council
613 to waive any portion of the required basic training program for any
614 applicant who has previously served as a peace officer, or who, at the
615 time the application is made, is serving as a peace officer. For the
616 purposes of this [section,] subsection, (A) "veteran" and "armed forces"
617 have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103, and "peace

618 officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 51-277a, as
619 amended by this act.

620 Sec. 10. Section 52-571j of the general statutes is repealed and the
621 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

622 (a) For the purposes of this section, "peace officer" has the same
623 meaning as provided in section [53a-3] 51-277a, as amended by this act,
624 except "peace officer" does not include [a special agent of the federal
625 government or] a member of a law enforcement unit of the
626 Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of
627 Connecticut.

628 (b) An employer of a peace officer who interferes with any person
629 taking a photographic or digital still or video image of such peace officer
630 or another peace officer acting in the performance of such peace officer's
631 duties shall be liable to such person in an action at law, suit in equity or
632 other proper proceeding for redress.

633 (c) An employer of a peace officer shall not be liable under subsection
634 (b) of this section if the peace officer had reasonable grounds to believe
635 that the peace officer was interfering with the taking of such image in
636 order to (1) lawfully enforce a criminal law of this state, a federal
637 criminal law or a municipal ordinance, whichever is applicable, (2)
638 protect the public safety, (3) preserve the integrity of a crime scene or
639 criminal investigation, (4) safeguard the privacy interests of any person,
640 including a victim of a crime, or (5) lawfully enforce court rules and
641 policies of the Judicial Branch with respect to taking a photograph,
642 videotaping or otherwise recording an image in facilities of the Judicial
643 Branch.

644 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, any peace officer who is found to
645 have committed an intentional tort of assault, battery, false
646 imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process or malicious prosecution,
647 pursuant to state law or 28 USC 2680(h), while interfering with any
648 person taking a photographic or digital still or video image of such

649 peace officer or another peace officer acting in the performance of such
650 peace officer's duties, shall not be entitled to assert any privilege or
651 immunity for their tortious conduct against a claim of civil liability.

652 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) In any prosecution for an
653 offense, no federal officer, employee or agent shall have immunity for
654 any action taken under color of federal law, unless such officer's,
655 employee's or agent's action was: (1) Authorized by federal law; and (2)
656 necessary and proper to execute such officer's, employee's or agent's
657 official duties as a federal officer, employee or agent.

658 Sec. 12. Section 7-291c of the general statutes is repealed and the
659 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

660 (a) No law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, shall hire
661 any person as a police officer, as defined in said section 7-294a, who was
662 previously employed as a [police] peace officer, as defined in section 51-
663 277a, as amended by this act, by such unit or in any other jurisdiction
664 and who (1) was dismissed for malfeasance or other serious misconduct
665 calling into question such person's fitness to serve as a [police] peace
666 officer; or (2) resigned or retired from such officer's position while under
667 investigation for such malfeasance or other serious misconduct.

668 (b) Any law enforcement unit that has knowledge that any former
669 police officer of such unit who (1) (A) was dismissed for malfeasance or
670 other serious misconduct, or (B) resigned or retired from such officer's
671 position while under investigation for such malfeasance or other serious
672 misconduct; and (2) is an applicant for the position of police officer with
673 any other law enforcement unit, shall inform such other unit and the
674 Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under section
675 7-294b of such dismissal, resignation or retirement.

676 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any [police] peace
677 officer who is exonerated of each allegation against such officer of such
678 malfeasance or other serious misconduct.

679 (d) For purposes of this section, (1) "malfeasance" means the

680 commonly approved usage of "malfeasance"; and (2) "serious
 681 misconduct" means improper or illegal actions taken by a [police] peace
 682 officer in connection with such officer's official duties that could result
 683 in a miscarriage of justice or discrimination, including, but not limited
 684 to, (A) a conviction of a felony, (B) fabrication of evidence, (C) repeated
 685 use of excessive force, (D) acceptance of a bribe, or (E) the commission
 686 of fraud."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	3-129g
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	51-277a
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	53a-22
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	51-277e
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	52-571j
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	7-291c