
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6722

AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR AID.

SUMMARY

Existing law allows any municipality, with the approval of its chief executive officer (CEO) and, if required by charter or ordinance, its governing body, to enter into an agreement with any other municipality or municipalities on requesting and supplying police assistance and reimbursing or receiving reimbursement for the same. Under the bill, these agreements must (1) allow each municipality's police chief, or the chief's designee, to request and provide police assistance and (2) require those who do so to inform their municipality's CEO about the actions taken. This bill requirement is also extended to the same agreements that municipalities may have with (1) CEOs at the state's public universities and colleges with special police forces; (2) the state capitol police chief; (3) CEOs of towns, cities, or boroughs that solely use constables for police protection; and (4) CEOs of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes. (It is not clear whether this provision applies to current agreements or to ones prospectively after the bill's effective date.)

Regardless of a prior agreement, current law also establishes a process for a municipality to request police assistance from another municipality and for the responding municipality to be reimbursed for its aid. The bill makes several changes to this process, including authorizing the municipality's police chief to make the request instead of its CEO, narrowing the circumstances for when a request can be made and for how long assistance can be provided, and generally transferring responsibility for costs incurred from the requesting municipality to the one supplying the assistance.

By law and under the bill, any police officer who provides police assistance by agreement or request must have the same powers, duties, privileges, and immunities as are conferred on the police officers of the municipality requesting assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

POLICE ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Current law allows a municipality's CEO, or the CEO's designee, to request police assistance from another municipality whenever he or she determines it is needed to protect the safety or well-being of his or her municipality. The CEO of the municipality receiving the request, or its police chief or board of police commissioners (or other CEO-approved duly constituted authority), may, regardless of any state or local law, reassign as many of its municipal police officers to the requester's commanding officer as he or she deems consistent with the safety and well-being of the municipality. Unless waived in writing by the CEO of the municipality supplying assistance, the requesting municipality must reimburse the other for all expenditures incurred, including payments for death, disability, or injury of employees and losses or damages to supplies or equipment incurred in providing the assistance.

The bill instead allows a municipality's police chief, or the chief's designee, to request police assistance from another municipality for a period up to 24 hours whenever he or she determines it is needed to respond to an emergency situation in the municipality. The police chief of the municipality receiving the request, or the chief's designee, may, regardless of any state or local law or prior assistance agreement, reassign as many of its municipal police officers to the requester's commanding officer as he or she deems consistent with the safety and well-being of the municipality. This police chief, or the chief's designee, must notify the municipality's CEO about the request received and any assistance provided.

Unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the two police chiefs or their designees, the bill requires the municipality supplying the assistance to bear the costs for all expenditures incurred

in doing so (e.g., payments for death, disability, or injury of employees and losses or damages to supplies or equipment).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)