
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 133

AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO WEAR RELIGIOUS HEAD COVERINGS AS PART OF A POLICE UNIFORM.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each law enforcement unit, by October 1, 2022, to adopt or amend a policy to allow its police officers to wear religious head coverings that correspond to their religious beliefs while on duty and wearing a uniform or other authorized attire, except where the unit requires its officers to use tight-fitting protective headgear.

By law and under the bill, a “law enforcement unit” is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime (CGS § 7-294a).

“Police officers” are sworn members of an organized local police department or the State Police; appointed constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties; special police officers appointed under law (e.g., public assistance fraud investigators); or any members of a law enforcement unit who perform police duties (CGS § 7-294a).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/03/2022)