



**Substitute House Bill No. 6302**

**Special Act No. 21-16**

**AN ACT STUDYING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.**

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study the current system of public safety answering points and make recommendations for consolidating such answering points while prioritizing the need to ensure public safety. The task force shall consider and make recommendations regarding: (1) The establishment of state goals regarding consolidation, (2) the definition of regional public safety answering point, (3) any challenges to consolidation presented by existing collective bargaining agreements, (4) issues that may arise in municipalities that would no longer have an individual physically located within the municipality to act as a dispatcher at all times after consolidation, (5) timeframes for consolidation, (6) where and how to locate regional public safety answering points, (7) ways to enhance the skills of telecommunicators, as defined in section 28-30 of the general statutes, and personnel providing emergency medical dispatch, as defined in section 28-25 of the general statutes, including recommendations regarding training standards and performance accountability, (8) the governance structure for regional public safety answering points, and (9) any other related issues the task force deems appropriate.

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(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and one of whom is a representative of a labor organization representing employees of public safety answering points;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and one of whom is a representative of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut;

(3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security and one of whom is a current or former director of a regional public safety answering point;

(4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of the Managers of Emergency Communication Centers Association and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board;

(5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Councils of Government and one of whom is a member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development;

(7) The commanding officer of the Division of State Police within the

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Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commanding officer's designee;

(8) The director of the Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the director's designee; and

(9) The undersecretary of the Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management, or the undersecretary's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Such chairpersons may establish subcommittees of the members as needed and designate a chairperson of each such subcommittee.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) The task force shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security and planning and development: (1) An interim

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report on the findings and recommendations of the task force not later than February 1, 2022, and (2) a final report on the findings and recommendations of the task force not later than January 1, 2023. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such final report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.