



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 5552**

LCO No. 5150



\* 0 5 1 5 0 H B 0 5 5 2 P S \*

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOLUNTEER POLICE AUXILIARY FORCE.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study the volunteer police auxiliary force authorized under section  
3 29-22 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The task force  
4 shall identify:

5 (1) Duties that volunteer police auxiliary force members may  
6 perform to supplement the work of Department of Emergency Services  
7 and Public Protection personnel;

8 (2) Strategies to recruit and retain members of the volunteer police  
9 auxiliary force;

10 (3) Minimum requirements for training of members of the volunteer  
11 police auxiliary force; and

12 (4) Any other issues that may limit the ability of the department to  
13 successfully use volunteer police auxiliary force members to  
14 supplement department personnel in the most effective and efficient

15 manner.

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

17 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

18 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

19 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
20 Representatives;

21 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

22 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
23 Representatives;

24 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

25 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
26 or the commissioner's designee; and

27 (8) Two appointed by the Governor.

28 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
29 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
30 of the General Assembly.

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

34 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
35 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
36 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
37 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not  
38 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

39 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
40 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public

41 safety and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

42 (g) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a  
43 report on its findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of  
44 Emergency Services and Public Protection and to the joint standing  
45 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
46 relating to public safety and security, in accordance with the  
47 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall  
48 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2020,  
49 whichever is later.

50 Sec. 2. Section 29-22 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
51 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

52 (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
53 is authorized to recruit, train and organize a volunteer police auxiliary  
54 force for the purpose of providing emergency services throughout the  
55 state for peacetime or wartime emergencies or threatened emergencies  
56 and for augmenting the state police force in such manner as the  
57 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may deem  
58 appropriate. Such volunteer police auxiliary force shall at all times be  
59 under the direction of said commissioner and subject to the rules and  
60 regulations of the Division of State Police within the Department of  
61 Emergency Services and Public Protection. The total membership of  
62 the auxiliary force shall not exceed in number twice the number of  
63 sworn state police personnel appointed pursuant to section 29-4. Such  
64 auxiliary force may be equipped with uniforms prescribed by the  
65 commissioner and delegated special police powers for specific  
66 emergency police duties. The commissioner may, within available  
67 appropriations, provide subsistence and maintenance to the volunteer  
68 police auxiliary force when called to duty. In the event of participation  
69 in emergency services, the members of the volunteer police auxiliary  
70 force shall have the same immunities and privileges as apply to the  
71 organized militia and to the regular members of the Division of State  
72 Police. All members of the volunteer police auxiliary force shall be

73 compensated for death, disability or injury incurred while in training  
 74 for or on auxiliary state police duty under the provisions of this section  
 75 as follows: (1) Employees of the state, municipalities or political  
 76 subdivisions of the state who are members of the volunteer police  
 77 auxiliary force and for whom such compensation is provided by any  
 78 provision of existing law shall be construed to be acting within the  
 79 scope of their employment while in training for or engaged in auxiliary  
 80 state police duty and shall be compensated in accordance with the  
 81 provisions of chapter 568 and sections 5-142 and 5-144. (2) Any persons  
 82 who are engaged in regular employment apart and separate from their  
 83 duties as members of the volunteer police auxiliary force and for  
 84 whom such compensation is not so provided shall, while in training  
 85 for or engaged in duties under the provisions of this section, be  
 86 construed to be employees of the state for the purpose of chapter 568  
 87 and sections 5-142 and 5-144, and shall be compensated by the state in  
 88 accordance with the provisions of said chapter and sections.

89 (b) Not later than February 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Emergency  
 90 Services and Public Protection shall review the recommendations of  
 91 the task force, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, to study the  
 92 volunteer police auxiliary force and submit to the joint standing  
 93 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 94 relating to public safety and security, in accordance with the  
 95 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, any  
 96 recommendations for legislation necessary to recruit, train and  
 97 effectively use members of the volunteer policy auxiliary force that the  
 98 commissioner deems reasonable and necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	29-22

**Statement of Purpose:**

To create a task force to study issues related to the volunteer police auxiliary force and to direct the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection to recruit and train members of the volunteer auxiliary force pursuant to the task force's recommendations.

*[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.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. BOYD, 50th Dist.; REP. HAYES, 51st Dist.

H.B. 5552