

HOUSE No. 4356

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to community policing and behavioral health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 24 the following section:-

3 Section 25. (a) Within the department of mental health, there shall be a Center for Police
4 Training in Crisis Intervention, in this section hereinafter referred to as the center. The center
5 shall serve as a source for cost-effective, evidence-based mental health and substance use crisis
6 response training programs for municipal police and other public safety personnel throughout the
7 Commonwealth. The center shall conduct activities as the advisory council, pursuant to
8 subsection (e), directs, which shall include: (i) supporting the establishment and availability of
9 community policing and behavioral health training curricula for law enforcement personnel,
10 particularly in interventions that provide alternatives to arrest and incarceration; (ii) serving as a
11 clearinghouse for best practices in police interactions with individuals suffering from mental
12 illness and substance use disorders; (iii) developing and implementing crisis intervention training
13 curricula for all veteran and new recruit officers; (iv) providing technical assistance to cities and
14 towns by establishing collaborative partnerships between law enforcement and human services

15 providers that maximize referrals to treatment services; and (v) establishing metrics for success
16 and evaluation of outcomes of these programs.

17 (b) The center shall be funded with revenue from appropriations or other money
18 authorized by the general court and specifically credited to the center, and revenue from private
19 sources including, but not limited to, grants, both state and federal, gifts and donations received
20 by the Commonwealth that are specifically credited to the center.

21 (c)(1) The center shall: (i) establish regional training opportunities for municipal police as
22 needed throughout the Commonwealth; (ii) develop and maintain curricula that is updated with
23 the latest research on best practices in community policing and behavioral health; (iii) recruit,
24 reimburse, and support trainers with experience in community policing and behavioral health
25 crisis intervention; (iv) ensure the training is targeted to meet specific local needs of participating
26 cities and towns and the Commonwealth; (v) support police departments in implementing
27 improved behavioral health responses through responsive policies and procedures and
28 partnerships with community behavioral health providers; and (vi) assist municipal police
29 departments to cover backfill costs incurred in sending staff to training, provided that said
30 reimbursement shall not exceed the actual cost of the sending department's backfill, (vii)
31 stipulate that each municipal police department receiving reimbursement provide information
32 necessary for the center to evaluate the goals described in subsection (c)(3), including the
33 percentage of the municipality's police sergeants, lieutenants, and other officers who directly
34 oversee patrol officers who have received the center's recommended training and the percentage
35 of the municipality's patrol officers who have received the center's recommended training.

36 (c)(2) Training shall include, but not be limited to information on: (i) the signs and
37 symptoms of mental illnesses and substance misuse; (ii) mental health treatment; (iii) co-
38 occurring disorders; (iv) responding to a mental health or substance use crisis; (v) best practices
39 and (vi) community policing principles.

40 (c)(3) The center shall develop and ensure sufficient training resources and opportunities
41 to enable each municipality in the Commonwealth to obtain the center's recommended training
42 for not less than 25 percent of their police sergeants, lieutenants, and other officers who directly
43 oversee patrol officers, and not less than 50 percent of their patrol officers within a time
44 determined by the community policing and behavioral health advisory council as described in
45 subsection (e).

46 (d) The center shall publish an annual report including: (i) narrative and statistical
47 information about training demand, delivery, cost, and identified service gaps during the prior
48 year; (ii) the effectiveness of the services delivered during the prior year; (iii) the communities
49 that participated in the training; (iv) the number of officers, and their ranks, that participated in
50 the training; (v) the progress each municipality has made in reaching the goals described in
51 subsection (c)(3), including the percentage of each municipality's police sergeants, lieutenants,
52 and other officers who directly oversee patrol officers who have received the center's
53 recommended training, and the percentage of each municipality's patrol officers who have
54 received the center's recommended training; and (vi) a review of research analyzed or conducted
55 during the prior year. The center shall submit the annual report by February 1st to the governor,
56 the secretary of health and human services, the commissioner of mental health, the secretary of
57 public safety and security, the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the joint

58 committee on mental health, substance use and recovery, the joint committee on public safety
59 and homeland security, and the senate and the house committees on ways and means.

60 (e) There shall be a community policing and behavioral health advisory council, in this
61 section called the council, consisting of 13 members: the secretary of health and human services
62 or the secretary's designee, and the secretary of public safety and security or the secretary's
63 designee who shall serve as co-chairs of the council; the commissioner of the department of
64 mental health or the commissioner's designee; the commissioner of the department of public
65 health or the commissioner's designee; the house chair of the joint committee on mental health,
66 substance use and recovery; the senate chair of the joint committee on mental health, substance
67 use and recovery; the executive director of the municipal police training committee or the
68 director's designee; a representative of a mental health consumer advocacy group, as appointed
69 by the secretary of health and human services; two community members who are consumers of
70 behavioral health services, appointed by the secretary of health and human services; and three
71 municipal police chiefs to be selected by the executive director of the Massachusetts Chiefs of
72 Police Association which shall include one police chief or commanding officer employed by a
73 community with fewer than 10,000 residents; one police chief or commanding officer employed
74 by a community with 10,000 or more residents and fewer than 60,000 residents; and one police
75 chief or commanding officer employed by a community with 60,000 or more residents. Members
76 of the council shall be appointed for a term of three years, and may be reappointed for
77 consecutive three-year terms. Non-governmental council members shall serve without
78 compensation, but each member shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth for all expenses
79 incurred in the performance of their official duties.

80 The council shall advise the chairs in directing the activities of the center consistent with
81 subsection (c), and shall receive ongoing reports from the center concerning its activities. The
82 council shall solicit public comment in the area of community policing and behavioral health,
83 and in so doing may convene public hearings throughout the Commonwealth. The council shall
84 hold not less than 2 meetings per year and may convene special meetings at the call of the chair
85 or a majority of the council.

86 SECTION 2. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
87 Section 2VVVV the following section:-

88 Section 2WWWW. Criminal Justice and Community Support Trust Fund.

89 (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
90 fund to be known as the Criminal Justice and Community Support Trust Fund, hereinafter called
91 the fund. The fund shall be administered by the Center for Police Training in Crisis Intervention,
92 established in section 25 of chapter 19. There shall be credited to the fund any appropriations,
93 grants, gifts or other monies authorized by the general court or other parties and specifically
94 designated to be credited to the fund. The objectives of the fund shall include, but shall not be
95 limited to: developing and providing training for state and municipal law enforcement in
96 evidence-based mental health and substance use crisis response; creating patient-focused, on-
97 going community services for individuals who are frequent users of emergency departments and
98 suffer from serious and persistent mental illness.

99 (b) Monies deposited in the fund that are unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall
100 not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in the subsequent year.

101 (c) The fund may apply for and accept subventions, grants, loans, advances and
102 contributions from any source of money, property, labor or other things of value to be held, used
103 and applied in furtherance of this section.