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## MAY 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FROM HUGES & CRONIN

We are almost three weeks away from the end of the Legislative Session (June 9<sup>th</sup> at midnight). There are a few bills the members should be aware of that are on awaiting action on the Senate or House calendar.

### Taser bill:

This bill allows for the electronic defense weapon to be taken off of the dangerous weapons list and be treated under the same circumstances as a firearm. A in depth analysis of the bill can be found below. The bill passed the House unanimously last week and is awaiting action on the Senate calendar.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/FC/PDF/2021HB-06491-R000575-FC.PDF>

### CALEA Accreditation:

This makes numerous changes, but the most important one is the removal of a forced CALEA accreditation by 2024 on all Connecticut police departments. The forced CALEA accreditation was in the "Police Accountability bill" that was passed last July. This on the agenda for the House to be voted on today (May 18<sup>th</sup>). A analysis for the bill and the other portions of the bill can be found below.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/FC/PDF/2021HB-06597-R000310-FC.PDF>

### Risk Warrants:

This bill passed the House last week. It allows for a household member, a family member, or a medical professional to apply for a risk warrant investigation by law enforcement. The chairpersons of the Judiciary Committee wanted to strengthen the existing risk warrant law and expand



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on the list of people who could request to law enforcement a risk warrant for an individual. A analysis for the bill can be found below.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/FC/PDF/2021HB-06355-R000689-FC.PDF>

There were a few bills that looked to address the juvenile car theft issue. There was a fiscal cost to one of the bills that would have placed an ankle monitoring device on juveniles that were awaiting trial for car thefts. There were very influential members in the majority caucus that are adamantly opposed to any legislation that would criminalize juveniles. This bill currently appears to be dead at the moment despite strong Republican and moderate Democrat members support.

If any members have any questions about these bills or others, they are more than welcome to call/email Carroll or I. There might be a need for member engagement on the CALEA bill if the bills looks to be in trouble. I can also send an email with contact information for legislators if members would like to reach out and encourage their legislators to act on certain bills.

**Sean Hughes**

**Hughes & Cronin Public Affairs Strategies**