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Hamden Legislative Council approves climate change superfund resolution



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

By AVA HIGHLAND
Managing Editor

Connecticut lawmakers are pushing for a Climate Change Superfund Act after it was not called for a vote in the state's House. As the push continues, the Town of Hamden's Legislative Council shared its endorsement at the first regular monthly meeting Oct. 5, receiving support from residents.

The proposed bill — House Bill (H.B.) 5156 — would establish a "cost recovery program designed to assess certain fossil fuel businesses and crude oil refiners (responsible parties) for Connecticut's cost from specified greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over a 30-year period and use those payments to fund climate change-related infrastructure improvements in the state," according to the bill analysis.

Specifically, "responsible parties that produced over 1 billion metric tons of GHG emissions from January 1, 1995, through December 31, 2024 (covered period) must pay for their proportional share of Connecticut's costs from the total GHG emissions over this period," the bill analysis states.

Connecticut is not the first state to push for this cost recovery program. Both Vermont and New York passed climate change superfund acts in 2024, and several other states are working to pass their own versions as well.

Proposed in early 2025, Connecticut's

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Quinnipiac's 2025 security and fire safety report shows continuous decreases across categories

By AVA HIGHLAND
Managing Editor

Quinnipiac University's Department of Public Safety's most recent annual security and fire safety report once again revealed a decrease in reported crime, recording information from Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2025.

All colleges and universities are required to complete this report under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act — also referred to as the Clery Act.

Signed into law in 1990 by former President George H.W. Bush, the Clery Act was created after 18-year-old Lehigh University student Jeane Clery was raped and murdered in her dorm room in 1986.

Quinnipiac's report includes information from all three of the university's campuses — Mount Carmel, York Hill and North Haven.

The report itself was prepared by Clery Compliance Officer and Investigator Joe Dease and is used to reflect on the school's efforts for safety and security.

"I think I look at the annual report not just as a compliance document," Chief of Public Safety Tony Reyes said. "So I think those reports they provide an important sort of perspective for us, an introspective about our trends, but I also think it's it helps reinforce how we're doing in terms of our efforts in terms of prevention, our emergency preparedness efforts, and also the resources that are available to the community."

Here's a breakdown of the report:

As for motor vehicle theft, however, there was one reported in 2025 at a non-campus building or property.

The report is also completed in compliance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013. In 2025, there were no reported VAWA offenses. Just like 2024, there were no reported stalkings in 2025 — whereas in 2023, there were five.

For arrests and referrals for disciplinary action, the numbers remained zero for all but two categories. There were no reported illegal weapons possession arrests, drug law violation arrests, liquor law violation arrests or illegal weapons possession referrals. For comparison, 2024 reported one illegal weapons possession referral.

However, both drug and liquor law violation referrals remain the highest reported categories, though the numbers continue to decrease from year to year.

"While our crime levels are low, alcohol and drug-related student conduct referrals continue to be an area where we have to focus, and we need to continue to focus significant educational support and resources," Reyes said.

Decreases in reports, Reyes notes, does not mean efforts to prevent incidents decrease with them.

"We're trending in the right direction, but for us it's kind of like okay, let's continue to do more in the way of education," Reyes said. "I think we've had some good impact with our efforts, but that'll be an area that we continue to focus on."

There were a total of 80 drug law violation referrals in 2025 across the three campuses; most were reported on Mount Carmel, with 55. York Hill reported 18, North Haven reported zero and seven were reported at non-campus buildings or properties. For comparison, there were 84 total in 2024.

As for liquor law violation referrals, there were a total of 211 across all three campuses, as compared to 2024's 318. Of the 211, Mount Carmel had 175, with 23 on York Hill and 13 at non-campus buildings or properties.

Reyes and Quinnipiac's Public Safety department continue their education and campaigns in their efforts to see these decreases persist.

"We do stuff on the local level where our (resident assistants) and during their meetings, we also do the educational stuff that we put out, and that student affairs puts out," Reyes said. "So that stuff is working; those interventions and those support programs are having a positive impact. That's kind of what I read when I see the numbers."

Reyes has also put a strong focus on the mental health and well-being of Quinnipiac students. This includes education, training and partnerships with the university's CARE Team and outside organizations.

"The key message there would be (to) address concerns early, provide support before challenges become emergencies," Reyes

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