

—Slug:.....COMM-0869.bratt.county\_policing  
—Contributor.....  
—Contributor email.....  
—For section..... Town and Village  
—Format..... News - no byline  
—Dateline..... Brattleboro  
—Article Number:..... 43714



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Windham County Regional Law Enforcement  
2 Governance Pilot signed into law

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 The Windham County Sheriff's Office recently  
6 announced that S.255, an act relating to establishing a pilot Law  
7 Enforcement Governance Council in Windham County, passed  
8 the Vermont Legislature and was signed into law by Governor  
9 Phil Scott May 20.

10 Following over three years of discussion and  
11 development, S.255 establishes a pilot framework for the

12 Windham County Law Enforcement Governance Council, a  
13 regional governance model intended to help participating  
14 municipalities without police departments plan, fund, and deliver  
15 law enforcement and related public safety services. The law  
16 creates an opt-in structure for Windham County towns that  
17 choose to participate.

18 "This is an important step forward for Windham County,"  
19 Sheriff Mark Anderson said in a news release. "For decades,  
20 Vermont has struggled with the challenge of equitable access to  
21 law enforcement. Many communities have been working through  
22 the same challenge: how to provide reliable, professional, and  
23 affordable law enforcement services in a way that respects local  
24 control. S.255 gives Windham County towns a new tool to have  
25 that conversation and, if they choose, to work together to  
26 improve access to services using existing funding."

27 Under this change in law, municipalities choose whether  
28 they will participate. Nonparticipating municipalities will not be  
29 assessed costs related to the Council. The law does not upset  
30 existing services from the Sheriff's Office, state police,  
31 municipalities, or mutual aid agreements. Instead, it gives towns  
32 a new way to engage in intermunicipal resource sharing that  
33 overcomes obstacles under current models.

34 "This law does not force a town to do anything,"  
35 Anderson said. "It creates a pathway that is more efficient at  
36 delivering law enforcement services with existing funds. The real  
37 work is continuing the local conversations, identifying towns that  
38 wish to join, and establishing the governing body which we are  
39 beginning outreach on now. The governing body will be able to  
40 establish the levels of service and funding which we expect to be  
41 delivered to the voters of participating towns during Town  
42 Meeting of 2027."

43 Anderson said the Sheriff's Office anticipates  
44 participating towns "will allocate the funding they currently  
45 appropriate to contract with my department to this program  
46 instead." He also offered thanks to "our legislators, municipal

47 leaders, assistant judges, public safety partners, residents, and  
48 stakeholders who contributed to the discussion and development  
49 of this pilot model.”

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

50

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

*LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:*

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

51

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

52

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

53

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

54

####END LOGLINE####