

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1281

(Delegate Carter, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Law Enforcement Officers - Entrance-Level and Annual Training Requirements
(Christopher's Law)

This bill alters the entrance-level and annual in-service training for law enforcement officers conducted by the State and each county and municipal training school. Specifically, the training curriculum and minimum courses of study must include, consistent with established standards and constitutional provisions, (1) training in life saving techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); (2) training in the proper level and use of force; and (3) training regarding sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. Most State agencies already meet or nearly meet the bill's requirements. Any additional costs for some agencies are assumed to be absorbable with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Some jurisdictions that do not already incorporate the bill's training requirements may incur additional costs to alter current training programs.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: The Police Training Commission (PTC) was created in 1966 and is chaired by the Superintendent of State Police. It operates approved police training schools and prescribes standards for and certifies schools that offer police and security

training. It also sets minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for approved training schools.

PTC certifies persons as police officers who have met commission standards. An individual who is not satisfactorily trained in the 12-month probationary period may not be employed as a police officer and a police officer may not serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.

The commission requires, for entrance-level police training and at least every three years for in-service level police training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include special training, attention to, and study of the application and enforcement of the criminal laws concerning rape and sexual offenses, including the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and related evidentiary procedures.

Background: Training for the certification of law enforcement officers in the State may be conducted at PTC facilities or at any of 20 police training academies in the State certified by the commission. There are approximately 16,000 certified police officers in Maryland.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill has no fiscal impact on PTC; any new training requirements can be accommodated with existing budgeted resources. By regulation, police officer entrance-level training already specifically includes requirements for training in emergency medical care, protective strategies and tactics, firearms training and qualification, the proper use of force with a firearm, and the proper use of force with an electronic control device. Regulations specifically require that an entrance-level applicant “meet the minimum qualification standard for certification in an emergency medical care program that has been approved by the Commission.” In addition to these regulatory provisions, PTC’s detailed *Entrance-Level Training Objectives* require training on rendering medical care and on the application of “deadly force” and “reasonable force.”

The Training Division of the Department of State Police (DSP) already facilitates most training requirements cited in the bill, specifically including training in life saving techniques (including CPR), the proper level and use of force, and training regarding sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity. DSP advises that it will add an annual E-Learning module to the existing group of annually required E-Learning courses to comply with the bill’s requirements.

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) reports that the bill has an operational impact on the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) annual police training. In effect, the bill reduces the training hours available for other courses of instruction and

may lengthen the overall time requirement for the entire in-service training program. Assuming it takes eight hours to complete the additional training, MDOT estimates that the bill costs about \$55,000 in additional overtime for completion of annual in-service training for hourly police officers employed by MTA. However, MDOT also advises that the bill has no fiscal impact on the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), since MDTA police officers already receive training in all of the bill's requirements except sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity, which can be added with existing resources.

Training adaptations for police officers employed by the Department of General Services and the Department of Natural Resources can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Fiscal Effect: The various local government agencies that conduct police entrance-level training and annual in-service training may need to modify existing training programs to meet the bill's requirements. Some local governments can modify their training programs with existing resources, while others may incur some additional costs. For example, Montgomery and Worcester counties advise that the bill codifies current practice in those counties. The Baltimore City Police Department reports that annual in-service training has a component of the firearms recertification that includes use of force training. However, life saving (CPR) and sensitivity training are not now part of that training. CPR training can be accommodated with existing resources. However, because entrance level training is conducted by an outside instructor, Baltimore City advises that adding sensitivity training results in additional costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery, Washington, and Worcester counties; Baltimore City; Department of Natural Resources; Department of General Services; Department of State Police; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2013
ncs/lgc

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510