

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 927
Judiciary

(Delegate Haynes)

Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Training Requirements
– Firearms

This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC), for entrance-level police training and annually for in-service level police conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, to require that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include, for police officers who are issued a firearm, classroom instruction, training, and qualification for the firearm that is comparable to the requirements for firearms classroom instruction, training and qualification established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Significant increase in general fund expenditures and significant operational impacts for MPTSC, the Department of State Police (DSP), and other State agencies with law enforcement units, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Significant fiscal and operational impacts for local law enforcement agencies, as discussed below. Local revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 519 of 2016 reconstituted the former Police Training Commission as MPTSC, an independent commission within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. MPTSC operates approved police training schools and prescribes

standards for and certifies schools that offer police and security training. In consultation and cooperation with various entities, it also sets minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for approved training schools.

MPTSC certifies persons as police officers who have met commission standards, including submission to a criminal history records check and a specified psychological evaluation. 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probationary period may not be employed as a police officer, and a police officer may not serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.

MPTSC requirements include, among other things:

- for entrance-level police training and annually for in-service level police conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include special training in the proper use of electronic control devices for specified police officers, consistent with established law enforcement standards and constitutional provisions;
- for entrance-level police training and, as determined by MPTSC, for in-service level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include, consistent with established law enforcement standards and federal and State constitutional provisions (1) training in lifesaving techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation; (2) training in the proper level and use of force; (3) training regarding sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity; and (4) training regarding individuals with physical, intellectual, developmental, and psychiatric disabilities; and
- for entrance-level police training and at least every two 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 of antidiscrimination and use of force de-escalation training.

Background: Training for the certification of law enforcement officers in the State may be conducted at MPTSC facilities or at any of 20 police training academies in the State certified by MPTSC. There are approximately 16,500 certified police officers in Maryland.

MPTSC and DSP advise that the FBI continually updates its requirements for classroom instruction, training, and qualification. With the exception of the requirement to complete firearms qualifications quarterly with an officer's service firearm, including live fire, MPTSC's training standards currently exceed those established by the FBI.

State Fiscal Effect: The State has limited firearm ranges that can accommodate the existing requirements for officers who are issued a firearm. There are currently

approximately 155 law enforcement agencies in the State. As a result of the bill's requirements, general fund expenditures increase significantly.

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

The firearms ranges operated by MPTSC are used by law enforcement agencies across the State for officers to meet the existing training requirements. According to MPTSC, the operation of these firearms ranges currently exceeds capacity. Thus, general fund expenditures increase by as much as \$7 million over the next few years for MPTSC to update the existing ranges and to construct additional firearms ranges to accommodate the increased training requirements under the bill. To the extent these costs can be funded in the capital budget instead, overall capital spending is not affected, but other capital projects cannot be funded.

Department of State Police

General fund expenditures increase for DSP by at least \$226,700 in fiscal 2020. DSP's current expenditures for ammunition for training officers is approximately \$226,700. The requirements under the bill result in DSP needing to double the amount of training conducted annually and the amount of ammunition purchased. This estimate does not include any costs for overtime that could be necessary to ensure that all patrol shifts are covered as officers are required to spend additional days in training and away from primary duty assignments.

Other State Agencies with Law Enforcement Units

Other State agencies with law enforcement units likely incur similar costs and operational impacts.

Local Expenditures: The bill results in a significant increase in training costs for several local law enforcement agencies, as reported by several municipalities and counties:

- Carroll County advises that expenditures increase significantly to (1) purchase additional ammunition and related supplies and (2) replace weapons due to the additional wear and tear resulting from the increased training requirements.
- Harford, Montgomery, and Queen Anne's counties report minimal fiscal impact; however, Montgomery County advises that the bill may result in operational impacts for the police department.
- St. Mary's County reports that the county sheriff's office exceeds the standards required by the bill; thus, there is no fiscal impact on the county.

- The City of Westminster estimates that expenditures increase by approximately \$55,000 annually, a significant increase in the city's law enforcement costs. In addition, the city advises that the additional time involved would have a significant operational impact as officers in training are not available to serve on patrol.
- The City of Salisbury reports that the bill may result in significant operational impacts.
- The Town of Bel Air states that expenditures for its 25 officers increase by an estimated \$4,300 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Carroll, Harford, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties; cities of Salisbury and Westminster; Maryland Municipal League; towns of Bel Air and Leonardtown; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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