

SENATE BILL 126

E4
SB 853/19 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

3lr0466
CF 3lr1191

By: **Senator Kagan**

Requested: September 28, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Police Officer**
3 **Certification – Eligibility**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements for an individual to be certified by
5 the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission as a police officer to
6 remove a certain requirement on an individual who is a permanent legal resident of
7 the United States and an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed
8 forces; and generally relating to police officer certification.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Public Safety
11 Section 3–209
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Public Safety**

17 3–209.

18 (a) The Commission shall certify as a police officer each individual who:

19 (1) (i) satisfactorily meets the standards of the Commission; or

20 (ii) provides the Commission with sufficient evidence that the
21 individual has satisfactorily completed a training program in another state of equal quality
22 and content as required by the Commission;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) submits to a mental health screening by a licensed mental health
2 professional;

3 (3) submits to a physical agility assessment as determined by the
4 Commission;

5 (4) submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with §
6 3–209.1 of this subtitle; and

7 (5) (i) is a United States citizen; or

8 (ii) [subject to subsection (b) of this section,] is a permanent legal
9 resident of the United States and an honorably discharged veteran of the United States
10 armed forces[, provided that the individual has applied to obtain United States citizenship
11 and the application is still pending approval].

12 (b) [The certification of a police officer who fails to obtain United States
13 citizenship as required by subsection (a)(4)(ii) of this section shall be terminated by the
14 Commission.

15 (c) The Commission may certify as a police officer an individual who is not
16 considered a police officer under § 3–201(f)(3) of this subtitle if the individual meets the
17 selection and training standards of the Commission.

18 [(d)] (C) Each certificate issued to a police officer under this subtitle remains the
19 property of the Commission.

20 [(e)] (D) As a condition of certification, a police officer shall submit to a mental
21 health assessment every 2 years and an annual physical agility assessment to establish
22 continuing fitness to carry out the officer’s assigned duties as a police officer.

23 [(f)] (E) Prior cannabis use is not a disqualifier for certification as a police
24 officer.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2023.