

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1435
Judiciary

(Delegate Acevero, *et al.*)

**Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission -
Prohibition Against Certain Affiliation or Support by Police Officers**

This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to prohibit police officers from (1) affiliating with, supporting, or advocating for white supremacist groups, causes, or ideologies or (2) participating in or actively promoting an international or domestic extremist group that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has determined supports or encourages illegal violent conduct.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MPTSC can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MPTSC is 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 (1) a criminal history records check; (2) a specified mental health screening; and (3) a specified physical agility assessment. 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a police officer may not serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.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, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include special training, attention to, and study of the application of:

- the criminal laws concerning rape and sexual offenses, including the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and related evidentiary procedures;
- the criminal laws concerning human trafficking, including services and support available to victims and the rights and appropriate treatment of victims;
- the criminal law concerning hate crimes;
- the contact with and treatment of victims of crimes and delinquent acts;
- the notices, services, support, and rights available to victims and victims' representatives under State law; and
- the notification of victims of identity fraud and related crimes of their rights under federal law.

These requirements apply to in-service level police training every three years and entrance-level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 88 of 2023 and HB 524 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Commission on Civil Rights; Harford and Talbot counties; Maryland Municipal League; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Comptroller's Office; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Department of General Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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