

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 820

(Senator Forehand, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Police Training Commission - Additional Minimum Training Requirements

This bill requires the Police Training Commission to expand the curriculum and the minimum courses of study of police training conducted by police training schools to include special training on, attention to, and the study of the exploitation of children; the contact with and treatment of victims of crimes and delinquent acts; the notices, services, support, and rights under State law available to victims and victims' representatives; and notification of the rights of victims of identity fraud under federal law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the Police Training Commission.

Local Effect: It is assumed that all local government training academies can similarly handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 286 of 1966 created the Police Training Commission. It is chaired by the Superintendent of State Police. The commission operates approved police training schools and prescribes standards for and certifies schools that offer police and security training. It may revoke a school's certification for cause. The commission sets minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for approved training schools.

The commission certifies persons as police officers who have met commission standards. Persons not satisfactorily trained in the 12-month probationary period may not be employed as police officers. Nor may a police officer serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.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: (1) the sexual abuse of children; (2) related evidentiary procedures; and (3) the contact with and treatment of victims of these crimes.

Background: Training for the certification of law enforcement officers in the State may be conducted at the commission's 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 779 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Police Training Commission), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2010
ncs/hlb

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