

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1056  
Judiciary

(Delegate B. Robinson, *et al.*)

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Police Training - Human Trafficking - Sensitivity and Awareness

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This bill adds to the powers and duties of the Police Training Commission (PTC) by authorizing PTC to require that the curriculum and minimum courses of study for entrance-level and in-service training include study of the application and enforcement of the criminal laws concerning human trafficking, including sensitivity and awareness training to recognize victims of human trafficking.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. PTC's responsibilities to ensure that police training academies in the State comply with the bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** Minimal.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** PTC was created in 1966. 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probationary period may not be employed as police officers, nor may a police officer serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.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 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 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.

PTC notes that the commission’s regulations (Code of Maryland Regulations 12.04.01.09) address police officer entrance-level training, and include requirements for police officer training in criminal investigation, crime prevention, etc. Building on these regulatory requirements, PTC’s detailed Entrance-Level Training Objectives already requires that training that familiarizes a student with criminal law be part of entrance-level training.

The Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy reports that there were four criminal convictions for human trafficking in 2012.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local law enforcement agencies are responsible for providing the training required under the bill. Various local government agencies conduct police entrance-level training and the minimum 18-hours of annual in-service training. These agencies need to modify their existing training programs to incorporate instruction on “human trafficking” to meet the standards of the bill. Local governments surveyed by the Department of Legislative Services indicate that the necessary adjustments can be handled with minimal impact, however.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** City of Annapolis, City of Bowie, Department of General Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, Department of Legislative Services

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