

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 649
Judiciary

(Allegany County Delegation)

**Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission -
Acceptance of Out-of-State Training**

This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to establish a process for certifying an individual who completes a police training program in another state or military police academy, including (1) determining if the program is of equal quality and content as required by MPTSC; (2) developing a system in which an individual may receive credit towards certification by MPTSC for completion of a police training program in another state or military police academy that is not sufficient for the individual to achieve certification by MPTSC; and (3) allowing an individual who receives credit for completion of a police training program in another state or military police academy that is not sufficient, to complete the required training in a Department of State Police training program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing procedure.

Local Effect: None.

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 consultation. 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probationary period may not be employed as a police officer, and a police officer may not serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.

Under the Code of Maryland Regulations, an agency requesting a waiver of a MPTSC selection or training standard based on an individual's unique circumstances must petition the commission for a waiver of the standard. An individual who completed entrance-level training in another state or through the federal government may be granted a waiver from completing portions of required entrance-level training standards if the entrance-level training completed in another state or through the federal government was comparable to MPTSC standards. If the Deputy Director of the Police Training and Standards Commission determines that the candidate has met minimum standards, the candidate is required to complete a comparative compliance training. Comparative compliance is a training that is shorter in duration than an entrance-level academy and has been designed to provide the candidate training on Maryland specific laws and issues. If the prior training does not meet existing standards and is not sufficient to allow for a waiver of entrance-level training, the candidate is required to complete an academy. An agency that disagrees with the decision has the ability to appeal the decision.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 666 (Senator Edwards) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Charles, and Montgomery counties; Maryland Association of Counties; City of Havre de Grace; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

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