

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 809
Judiciary

(Delegate Haynes)

Public Safety - Use of Force De-Escalation Training of Law Enforcement Officers
- Reports

This bill requires each local law enforcement agency to provide the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services (GOCPYVS) with the agency's policies and procedures on use of force de-escalation training for its law enforcement officers, including specified information, beginning October 1, 2021, and every two years thereafter. GOCPYVS must (1) adopt procedures for the collection, analysis, and compilation of the required information and (2) beginning January 1, 2022, and every two years thereafter, submit a report that compiles the required information to specified legislative committees.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: GOCPYVS did not respond to requests for information regarding the fiscal effect of the bill. Based on similar legislation introduced in a prior legislative session, however, it is assumed that GOCPYVS can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local law enforcement agencies can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC), an independent commission within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, 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.

Among other requirements, MPTSC requires, for entrance-level police training and, as determined by MPTSC, for in-service level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include (1) training in lifesaving techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation; (2) training in the proper level and use of force; (3) training regarding sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity; and (4) training regarding individuals with physical, intellectual, developmental, and psychiatric disabilities. In addition, MPTSC requires for entrance-level police training and at least every two 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 of antidiscrimination and use of force de-escalation training.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 635 of 2019 received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee. HB 1503 of 2017 passed the House with amendments and received a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; City of Havre de Grace; Department of Legislative Services

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md/lgc

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