

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1220 (Delegate Reilly, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

General Assembly - Use of Force - Required Training Program

This bill requires each senator and delegate to attend a training program on law enforcement officer use of force at least once during the first two years of each elected or appointed term of office. The training program must (1) be conducted by a State or local law enforcement office in the State; (2) include hands-on, virtual reality simulation on use of force; and (3) be at least two hours in length. The Maryland Police Standards and Training Commission (MPSTC) must maintain on its website a list of legislators, including whether each legislator has completed the required training.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the General Assembly potentially increase beginning in fiscal 2023, as discussed below. To the extent that the training is conducted by a State law enforcement office, State finances may be further affected, as discussed below.

Local Effect: Revenues and expenditure for local law enforcement agencies may increase to the extent they provide the required training to legislators and are reimbursed for their services, but a reliable estimate is not feasible, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MPSTC, 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. Pursuant to MPSTC standards, the curriculum and minimum courses of study must include use of force de-escalation training, as specified. This requirement applies to in-service level police training every two years and entrance-level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school. In addition, MPSTC has the power and duty to adopt and recommend a set of best practices and standards for the use of force.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures for the General Assembly potentially increase beginning in fiscal 2023 for costs associated with periodic trainings attended by legislators under the bill, such as member travel reimbursement and any payments provided to State or local law enforcement offices that conduct the trainings. Although the bill requires each legislator to complete the training only once during each term, it is assumed that trainings likely must be conducted periodically throughout each term, to accommodate members who are appointed to office during the term. However, the precise costs cannot be reliably estimated, as they depend on how the bill's training requirement is ultimately implemented, including the location, timing, and frequency of the trainings, which agency or agencies conduct the training, and whether any payment is provided to agencies that conduct training.

The Department of Legislative Services notes that access to use of force virtual reality simulators is limited in the State. Providing sufficient virtual reality equipment for all 188 members of the General Assembly to complete the training may be expensive and/or time-consuming if members must rotate through a limited supply of equipment. To the extent that legislators can comply with the bill's requirements by attending "citizen police" academies or other existing programs offered by local law enforcement agencies, costs are likely mitigated.

State law enforcement agency reimbursable fund revenues and expenditures potentially increase, to the extent that a State law enforcement agency conducts trainings for legislators under the bill. Any such impact depends on implementation choices and cannot be reliably estimated. DPSCS advises that the Police and Correctional Training Commissions are in a position to assist a State or local agency in conducting the training if the agency does not have the necessary virtual training equipment.

MPSTC can maintain on its website a list of legislators who have completed the required training with existing budgeted resources.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local government revenues and expenditures may increase to the extent that local law enforcement offices conduct trainings for legislators and/or receive payment for providing this training. As discussed above, any such increase depends on implementation choices. To the extent that legislators can comply with the bill's

requirements by attending “citizen police” academies or other existing programs offered by local law enforcement agencies, local government finances are not likely affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Municipal League; Department of General Services; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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