



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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BILL: HOUSE BILL 479

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC), in consultation with the Anne Arundel County Police Academy, to develop and maintain a uniform statewide training curriculum that includes role-playing exercises to ensure the use of best practices in issuance of citations in lieu of arrest.

COMMENTS:

- MPTSC was reconstituted in 2016 as an independent commission within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The MPTSC's primary function is to set training standards for law enforcement officers and certify those officers who have met commission standards.
- These objectives are based on current legal requirements and procedures and best practices in the industry, and there is already an established objective for the issuance of citations in lieu of arrests.
- Given the current trend in many states for an interest in issuing both criminal and civil citations in lieu of arrest, law enforcement training nationwide has evolved to place more emphasis on the use of citations for enforcement purposes. Training in Maryland law enforcement agencies has evolved concurrently and includes scenario-based training.
- MPTSC staff is frequently in communication with the State's other law enforcement training agencies and works with them to keep the curriculum innovative and up to date.
- MPTSC confirmed with the Commander of the Anne Arundel County Police Academy that their academy satisfies the Commission's training objective, but does not offer anything extraordinary that would contribute any more to the development of training than any other academy.

- There is a Maryland Training Director's Association, comprised of the approximately 20 academy directors across the State. They meet on a monthly basis and would be the appropriate subject matter experts on this area as opposed to one particular county.

CONCLUSION: For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully asks this Committee to consider this information as it deliberates on House Bill 479.