



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

45 Calvert Street, Suite B7A-C, Annapolis MD 21401
410-260-6070 • Fax: 410-974-2586 • www.dpscs.state.md.us

STATE OF MARYLAND

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

ROBERT L. GREEN
SECRETARY

RACHEL SESSA
CHIEF OF STAFF

CHRISTOPHER McCULLY
DEPUTY SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATION

J. MICHAEL ZEIGLER
DEPUTY SECRETARY
OPERATIONS

CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

GARY W. McLHINNEY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

CATHERINE KAHL
ACTING DIRECTOR

BILL: HOUSE BILL 1144

POSITION: SUPPORT

COMMENTS: House Bill 1144 proposes to make changes to the Public Safety Article, guiding the actions of the Police Training and Standards Commission (Commission).

- The Police Training and Standards Commission (Commission), is an independent Commission within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department).
- HB 1144 provides clarifying language that will enhance the mission of the Commission to develop and deliver standards.
- In 2016, House Bill 1016 repealed the Police Training Commission that had been in existence since 1966 and reconstituted it as the Police Training and Standards Commission. The reconstitution effectuated a number of changes including the composition of the previous Commission.
- Specifically, the bill stipulated that the Commission annually elect a chair and a vice chair. HB 1144 proposes to appoint the Secretary of the Maryland Department of State Police, allowing for consistent and continuous leadership.
- HB 1144 allows the Commission to conduct business that is aligned with current technology (e.g. track certification electronically).
- HB 1144 aligns terms and definitions that have been changed over time (e.g. Maryland State Police has become Maryland Department of State Police).
- HB 1144 establishes a schedule for job tasks analysis to be conducted every 10 years beginning in 2020 to ensure the duties of police officers are consistent with job descriptions and identified tasks. It has been approximately 25 years since a job task analysis for police officers was conducted in Maryland and the job has changed in this time due to technological and other advances.

- The Public Safety Article requires specific training in § 3-207. HB 1144 aligns the training requirements in a manner that prevents misinterpretation and places the responsibility of identifying current issues to be addressed with the Commission.
- HB 1144 clarifies existing statutory mandates, establishing timeframes for when they must be accomplished.
- HB 1144 proposes to remove out-of-date language requiring the Commission to develop certain reports. The new language requires the reports that have been developed to be maintained and annually reviewed.
- HB 1144 proposes to add the language “every police officer must be certified by the Commission,” codifying existing practices.
- HB 1144 proposes to implement changes that improve the alignment of the Public Safety Article, clarifying the mission of the Commission.

CONCLUSION: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services urges a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB 1144.