



**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Office of the Secretary**

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BILL: SENATE BILL 256

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

EXPLANATION: SB 256 alters the language under the Public Safety Article for the purpose of clarifying the responsibilities and processes of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (Commission).

COMMENTS:

- The Commission is an independent Commission housed within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services that establishes the training and selection standards for all certified police officers in the State. Additionally, it approves the training requirements for police academies, in-service training, and security officer training. The Commission regularly certifies approximately 16,000 officers each year and conducts audits of law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with applicable standards.
- SB 251 clarifies the following:
 - The Commission's authority to mandate specific topics for in-service each year, which ensures training is provided consistently throughout the State of Maryland.
 - Streamlines and improves the Commission's ability to audit mandated topics of study by authorizing the development of specific completion requirements.
 - Modifies language, originally directing the Commission to develop a variety of processes and procedures to directing a periodic review and update of regulations, curriculum, and model policies required.
 - Requires a mental health evaluation as opposed to a mental health screening, while requiring a mental health screening every two years to maintain certification.

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- Removes language referencing the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights as it relates to Commission decertification hearings.
- Requires the Commission to conduct a full job task analysis every ten years to ensure entry level training is modern and relevant.
- The Commission supports the amendment proposed by the Chief's and Sheriff's Association to remove language establishing the Secretary of the State Police as the permanent chair of the Commission and agrees with:

striking on page 5, line 11 beginning with "THE" through "(B)" in line 12; and removing both brackets in line 12.

CONCLUSION: For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee vote **FAVORABLY WITH AMENDMENT** on Senate Bill 256.