



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

BILL: SENATE BILL 242

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

STATE OF MARYLAND

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EXPLANATION: Senate Bill 242 would authorize active service members and spouses to practice in the State under an occupational or professional license issued in another jurisdiction. Additionally, the legislation would alter the definition of "eligible veteran" and include former service members who have been discharged for more than 1 year before an application for a license, certificate, or registration is submitted.

- The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) prescribes minimum police selection and training standards for entrance, in-service and advanced levels for all police officers serving State, county, and municipal agencies in Maryland.
- The language defining a license would include the police officer certification issued by the Maryland Police Training & Standards Commission.
- The entry-level training requirements established by the Commission include a minimum academy length of 850 hours in sixteen specific topical areas of instruction.
- Forty-three states have minimum academy lengths that are less than Maryland to include eight that require less than 500 hours of training.
- Entry level training students must master over 217 terminal objectives and 439 enabling objectives to successfully be certified as a police officer.
- Nine states do not have mandated training objectives and 7 states have no unified statewide curriculum.
- Maryland requires all entry-level academies to include topics of instruction on sexual harassment, hate crimes, cultural diversity, and community policing.

- Other states have significant gaps in the training provided in certain areas. Twenty-eight states do not require sexual harassment, 20 do not require hate crime, 11 do not require cultural diversity, and 14 do not require community police training.
- Maryland requires all applicants for certification to submit to a robust background investigation that includes medical testing, a psychological evaluation and the Commission independently runs the fingerprints of all applicants.
- Six states do not require a medical certification, 14 states do not require a psychological evaluation and 24 states do not independently run the fingerprints of applicants.
- Maryland requires all certified officers to be at least 21 years of age. Eighteen states allow individuals under the age of 21 to be certified.

CONCLUSION: Maryland has some of the most stringent training and certification requirements in the country. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests this Committee consider this information as it deliberates on Senate Bill 242.