



MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (hereafter referred to as "the Commission") was statutorily created by Act 120 (hereafter referred to as "Act 120") of 1974 (53 P.S. 740-749) in response to a federal study urging improved standards and goals in police training. The Commission was charged with establishing and administering the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Program, and responsibility for administration of the program was given to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP).

Commission Composition

The Commission is comprised of 20 members, as required by Act 120. Six seats on the Commission are ex officio positions while the remaining members are appointed by the Governor for a term of three years. Notwithstanding the reimbursement of essential expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, Commission members serve without compensation. The Commission is required to meet at least four times annually and may hold special meetings as necessary. Special meetings are called by the Chairman or at the request of at least five Commission members. The Commission has committees comprised of Commission members that usually meet prior to each regular Commission meeting, to address specific areas of the Commission's business.

As required by Act 120, the Commission members shall consist of:

- The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police (Chairperson). *
- The Attorney General of the Commonwealth. *
- The Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development. *
- The Police Commissioner of Philadelphia. *
- One member of the PA Senate, appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate. *
- One member of the PA House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. *
- Four elected officials, appointed by the Governor, including one from a borough, a second-class township, a first-class township, and a city.
- Four incumbent chiefs of police, appointed by the Governor, including one chief from a borough department, a township department, and a city department.
- One Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent-In-Charge, appointed by the Governor.
- One educator qualified in the field of law enforcement, appointed by the Governor.
- One member representing the public at large, appointed by the Governor.
- Two non-commissioned police officers, appointed by the Governor.
- One director of a certified municipal police training school, appointed by the Governor.

* Denotes Ex Officio Positions

Commission Staff

The PSP is responsible for the administration of the program. The Commission, by statute, elects an Executive Director who is responsible for the day-to-day Commission responsibilities. The Executive Director and Commission staff are assigned to an office within the PSP and report to the Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Professional Responsibility. The Commission produces an annual report concerning the administration of its programs and provides recommendations for executive or legislative action necessary for the improvement of law enforcement and the administration of justice. The Commission receives legal services from an Assistant Counsel assigned to the PSP from the Governor's Office of General Counsel. The Commission office is located at 8002 Bretz Drive, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and consists of 18 staff members, including enlisted and civilian PSP personnel. The Commission has an annual budget of approximately two million dollars to cover personnel, general operating expenses, curriculum development, and fixed asset expenses.

The Commission staff oversees the training and certification requirements of municipal police officers under Act 120. Officers require certification by the Commission prior to enforcing the Crimes Code, moving violations of the Vehicle Code, or carrying a firearm. Certification is granted by Commission vote when all criteria of the attendant regulations are met and upon successful completion of the municipal police officer certification exam, which is administered by the Commission staff. To verify that all Act 120 certified police officers continue to meet certification standards, the Commission staff conducts a biennial recertification.

The Commission staff also oversees the development, presentation, and documentation of the basic municipal police officer training curriculum, which currently consists of 919 hours of classroom and practical training conducted by Commission-certified academies and instructors. In addition, the staff reviews and approves various waivers of training for qualified law enforcement officers as provided for in Act 120 and Act 165 of 2012, conducts annual inspections of certified academies, and conducts investigations of academies failing to comply with regulatory standards.

Act 180 of 1988 requires Act 120 certified police officers to obtain 12 hours of in-service training annually to maintain their certification. Each year the Commission staff develops 12 hours of in-service training which can be taken in the classroom or on-line. The Commission decides which training is "required" (essential training; for example, changes to the law and application of case law or legislatively mandated training) and which training/hours are elective. The Commission staff also reviews, approves, and tracks over 600 additional Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) courses, which can be used as credit toward the elective training requirement for recertification.

Act 235 of 1974, commonly referred to as the Lethal Weapons Training Act (LWTA), requires anyone carrying a lethal weapon (as defined in the Act) in conjunction with his or her employment, unless exempted, to receive training and meet certification requirements. The PSP oversees the LWTA program and the Commission staff administers the program on their behalf. The Commission staff approves new applications, renews certifications, and when applicable, suspends certifications for the Commonwealth's lethal weapons agents.

The Commission staff performs annual inspections of the certified schools conducting basic and renewal LWTA classes, approves or declines applications for new schools, approves or declines applications for new instructors, and suspends or decertifies schools failing to comply with regulations.

Act 79 of 2005, the Retired Law Enforcement Officers Identification Act (RLEIA), established Pennsylvania's program responsive to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) of 2004, as amended, regarding the authorization for qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms if they meet specific criteria. Act 79 requires Commission staff to administer aspects of RLEIA including certifying firearms instructors, managing qualification cards, tracking annual qualifications, processing money orders, and logging Instructor and Sheriff Office reports.

Recommendations

In recognition of the importance of municipal police training, the General Assembly passed Act 89 of 2013. Act 89 allocated five million dollars of funding to the Commission, each fiscal year, to reimburse municipalities for municipal police training. This reimbursement is limited to expenses which are consistent with Article VIII, § 11 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and therefore only provides for the reimbursement of police training that directly relates to safety on bridges and highways. The Commission recommends that this appropriation be re-structured to establish a restricted receipts account within the General Fund, similar to that of the County Probation Officers' Firearm Education and Training Fund. It is further recommended that the parameters of the restricted receipts account be expanded beyond strictly police training that relates to safety on bridges and highways. Additionally, as is customary with many grant reimbursement programs, the Commission recommends that a nominal percentage of the total allocated funding is provided for administration and expenses associated with this reimbursement program. These actions will allow the Commission to more fully reimburse municipalities for municipal police training and other training law enforcement education programs.

Act 120 Officer Certification

The Commission staff administers certification of municipal police officers employed by certified municipal police departments. To be certified, municipal police officers must pass the state certification exam. Applicants can apply to take the certification exam if they have successfully completed the basic police academy or if they are granted a waiver based on previous training and employment. Applicants who are currently or conditionally hired by a police department are referred to as “hired” candidates while those who are still seeking employment are referred to as “pre-service” candidates. As noted below, there are currently 24,624 certified municipal police officers employed in Pennsylvania. The following data reflects Act 120 certification actions from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017:

Active Police Departments: 1,079

Total Certified Officers: 24,624

Revoked Certifications: 9

Certification Examinations Administered: 1613

--Test takers who passed Examination: 1,565 (97%)

--Currently certified police officers: 1,028 (64%)

--Currently NOT certified police officers: 537 (36%)

New Certifications: 1,405

--Basic Applications: 575 (41%)

--Waiver of Training: 830 (59%)

Act 120 Instructor Certification

The Commission staff administers certification of municipal police instructors authorized to provide basic and in-service instruction at certified police training schools. As noted below, there are currently 1,116 certified municipal police instructors working at 24 certified police training schools. The following data reflects instructor certification actions from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017:

Total Certified Academies: 24

New Directors Certified: 5

New Instructors Certified: 142

Amended Instructors: 21

Total Certified General Instructors: 933

Total Certified CPR/AED Instructors: 97

Total Certified Firearms Instructors: 413

Total Certified Physical Training Instructors: 154

Total Certified Application of Force Instructors: 186

Total Certified Driving/EVOC Instructors: 128

Act 120 Basic Training

Candidates for certification as municipal police officers must meet the training requirements of the act. Those who have not previously completed a basic municipal police academy must do so. Cadets who are hired by a police department before attending the academy are referred to as “hired” cadets while those who are still seeking employment are referred to as “pre-service” cadets. Individuals meeting certain criteria related to previous military or federal law enforcement training are eligible for partial waivers of the basic academy. The following data reflects the number of individuals applying for and receiving basic police officer training at certified academies from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017:

New Cadet Applications: **1,065**

--Hired Applicants: 462

--Pre-Service Applicants: 603

Total Cadets Graduated: **1,150**

--Hired Graduates: 569 (*96% of 590 hired cadets*)

--Pre-Service Graduates: 581 (*83% of 701 pre-service cadets*)

Partial Training Waivers (Federal/Military): **51**

Act 180 In-Service Training

The following data reflects in-service and CLEE courses developed and/or approved by the Commission from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017:

MPOETC Courses Developed: 4

Instructors Trained: 514

--18-001 Legal Updates: 3 hours (*Required Course*)
(140 Instructors Trained)

--18-002 PJ Tactics and De-escalation Techniques: 3 hours (*Optional Course*)
(123 Instructors Trained)

--18-003 Assessing and Planning for Active Assaults: 3 hours (*Optional Course*)
(118 Instructors Trained)

--18-004 Detecting and Avoiding Ambush Situations: 3 hours (*Optional Course*)
(133 Instructors Trained)

Approved CLEE Providers: 187

Elective CLEE Courses: 752

Act 235 Lethal Weapons

The following data reflects Lethal Weapons (LW) training activity from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017:

Total Certified LW Agents: 15,200

Certifications Issued: 3,093

--Initial Certifications: 1,648

--Renewals: 1,445

Certifications Revoked: 24

Total Certified LW Academies: 40

Total Certified LW Instructors: 1,161

--Academic Instructors: 639

--Skills Instructors: 291

--Firearms Instructors: 729

New Instructors Certified: 30

Act 79 Retired Law Enforcement Officer Identification

The Commission staff completed the following activities related to the RLEIA program from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Individuals who wish to be recognized as Certified Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (as defined in Federal and State statutes) may submit an application to the Commission staff for approval. Those who wish to conduct qualifications for retired officers under the RLEIA program can elect to have their contact information posted on the Commission's website. There are currently over 1,000 Certified Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, 767 of whom have elected to participate as firearms instructors for retired officers. In 2017, these instructors issued 4,396 qualification cards purchased from the Commission.

RLEIA Instructors: **767**

Cards Issued: **4,396**

Officers are given a qualification card upon completion of the qualification course of fire and must present the card to their County Sheriff's Office for a background check. Upon completing the background check, the Sheriff's Office annotates it on the qualification card and provides a log of all checks to the Commission staff. The Commission staff processed 978 separate Sheriff's Office logs documenting background checks of retired law enforcement officers.

Sheriff's Logs Received: **1,212**

Commission Membership

Colonel Tyree C. Blocker, State Police Commissioner, Chairperson

Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf

Representative Barry J. Jozwiak

Christopher M. Werner, Chief Inspector, City of Philadelphia

William J. Kelly, Represents Attorney General
(Resigned: Lawrence Cherba, January 2017)

Ronald L. Stern, Department of Community & Economic Development

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr., Township Official of the First Class (Upper Darby Township)

Chief Douglas E. Grimes, Peters Township Police Department (Washington County)
(Resigned: Chief James W. Adams, September 2017)

Chief Guy A. Salerno, Blakely Borough Police Department (Lackawanna County)

Chief Richard M. Bosco, Lincoln Borough Police Department (Westmoreland County)

Richard W. Long, Esq., Public at Large (Cumberland County)

Dr. Bart E. Burne, Educator (West Side Career and Technical Center)

Christopher J. Delozier, Harrisburg Police Department,
Non-Commissioned Police Officer

Robert J. Carroll, Media Borough Police Department, Non-Commissioned Police Officer

Patricia B. Dombrowsky, Certified School Director (HACC Police Academy)

Vacant: Township Official of the Second Class (North Strabane Township)
(Resigned: Sonia Stopperich Sulc, December 2017)

Vacant: City Police Chief
(Resigned: Keith R. Sadler, November 2017)

Vacant: City Official

Vacant: Borough Police Chief

Vacant: Special Agent in Charge, FBI

Commission Committee Assignments

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr. (CHAIR)
Guy A. Salerno
Richard M. Bosco
James W. Adams (*Resigned*)
Keith R. Sadler (*Resigned*)

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Bart E. Burne (CHAIR)
Jacob A. Bierling, Jr.
Richard M. Bosco
Robert J. Carroll
Christopher J. Delozier
Patricia B. Dombrowsky
James W. Adams (*Resigned*)
Lawrence M. Cherba (*Resigned*)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bart E. Burne (CHAIR)
Jacob A. Bierling, Jr.
Patricia B. Dombrowsky
William J. Kelly
Richard W. Long
James W. Adams (*Resigned*)
Lawrence M. Cherba (*Resigned*)

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Richard W. Long (CHAIR)
Christopher J. Delozier
Barry J. Jozwiak
Ronald L. Stern
Keith R. Sadler (*Resigned*)

RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

William J. Kelly (CHAIR)
Bart E. Burne
Christopher M. Werner
Lawrence M. Cherba (*Resigned*)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jacob A. Bierling, Jr. (CHAIR)
Christopher J. Delozier
Douglas E. Grimes
Barry J. Jozwiak
Ronald L. Stern

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Patricia B. Dombrowsky (CHAIR)
Christopher J. Delozier
Guy A. Salerno
Ronald L. Stern
Christopher M. Werner
James W. Adams (*Resigned*)
Sonia Stopperich Sulc (*Resigned*)

Commission Staff Positions

- (1) Executive Director (PSP Major)
- (1) Assistant Director (PSP Lieutenant)
- (1) Professional Standards Investigator (PSP Corporal)
- (3) Administrative Officers
- (3) Administrative Assistants
- (3) Clerk Typists
- (1) Police Training Curriculum Specialist
- (5) Police Training Education Specialists
- (1) Attorney to the Commission (PSP Attorney)

Certified (Act 120) Police Training Academies

Allegheny County Police Training Academy

Allison Park, PA 15101
Inspector Wayne E. Gaffron

Community College of Beaver County

Beaver Falls, PA 15010
Donald E. Sedlacek, Director

Delaware County Community College

Media, PA 19063
William C. Davis, Director

Gerald M. Monahan, Sr. Police Academy

Allentown, PA 18103
Captain Stephen F. Vangelo, Director

Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center Police Academy

Johnstown, PA 15904
William L. Richards, Director

Harrisburg Area Community College

Harrisburg, PA 17110
Patricia B. Dombrowsky, Director

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)

Indiana, PA 15705
Dennis L. Marsili, Director

IUP California University

California, PA 15419
Dennis L. Marsili, Director

IUP Robert Morris University

Moon, PA 15108
Dennis L. Marsili, Director

Lackawanna College at Hazleton

Hazleton, PA 18201
John R. Chilleri, Director

Lackawanna College at Scranton

Scranton, PA 18509
John R. Chilleri, Director

Mansfield University

Mansfield, PA 16933
Scott A. Henry, Director

Mercyhurst University
North East, PA 16428
Walter W. Hale, Director

Montgomery County Community College
Conshohocken, PA 19428
Jude McKenna, Director

Philadelphia Police Department Recruit Training Division*
Philadelphia, PA 19136
Captain William T. Maye, Director

Pittsburgh Police Training Academy*
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Lieutenant Matthew E. Lackner, Director

Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Academy**
Hershey, PA 17033
Major William P. White, Director

PSP Northeast Training Center**
Forty-Fort, PA 18704
Major William P. White, Director

PSP Northwest Training Center**
Meadville, PA 16335
Major William P. White, Director

PSP Southeast Training Center**
Schwenksville, PA 19473
Major William P. White, Director

PSP Southwest Training Center**
Greensburg, PA 15601
Major William P. White, Director

Reading Police Academy
Reading, PA 19601
Captain Andrew J. Winters, Director

Temple University
Ambler, PA 19002
Christie L. Willard, Director

Westmoreland County Community College
Youngwood, PA 15697
Franklin R. Newill III, Director

* These academies only accept hired students.

** These academies do not currently offer basic municipal police officer training.