

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 863 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY D. WILLIAMS, KINSEY, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, GREEN AND CEPHAS, APRIL 10, 2023

SENATOR REGAN, LAW AND JUSTICE, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, DECEMBER 11, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in employees, further providing for
3 powers and duties of commission.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 2164(8) of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 2164. Powers and duties of commission.

9 The powers and duties of the commission shall be as follows:

10 * * *

11 (8) To require minimum standards for physical fitness,
12 psychological evaluation and education as prerequisites to
13 employment as a police officer. The following shall apply:

14 (i) The minimum physical fitness standards FOR A <--
15 SCHOOL LOCATED IN A CITY OF THE FIRST CLASS shall require
16 an applicant for certification to score no lower than the
17 30th percentile of the Cooper standards, which coincides

1 with the 30th percentile of the general population, for
2 each required evaluation to be eligible for employment as
3 a police officer. A school may not enroll an individual
4 into a recruit training program certified by the
5 commission unless the individual has obtained a score in
6 the 15th percentile or higher for the individual's age
7 and gender as specified in the Cooper standards for each
8 required evaluation.

9 (ii) The minimum educational standards shall require <--
10 an applicant to demonstrate reading comprehension through
11 a reading comprehension test approved by the commission.
12 Local jurisdictions may submit reading comprehension
13 tests to the commission for consideration. The commission
14 shall transmit notice of approved reading comprehension
15 tests to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication
16 in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin
17 and on the commission's publicly accessible Internet
18 website. SUBPARAGRAPH (I) SHALL EXPIRE FIVE YEARS AFTER <--
19 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

20 (III) THE MINIMUM EDUCATION STANDARDS SHALL INCLUDE
21 A DEMONSTRATION OF READING COMPREHENSION THROUGH THE USE
22 OF A READING COMPREHENSION TEST APPROVED BY THE
23 COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION SHALL:

24 (A) IMMEDIATELY APPROVE TWO READING
25 COMPREHENSION TESTS.

26 (B) EVALUATE ADDITIONAL READING COMPREHENSION
27 TESTS THAT ARE SUBMITTED BY A SCHOOL OR THAT
28 OTHERWISE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION FOR
29 REVIEW.

30 (C) PROVIDE NOTICE OF A LIST OF APPROVED READING

1 COMPREHENSION TESTS BY:

2 (I) TRANSMITTING NOTICE OF THE LIST TO THE
3 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN
4 THE NEXT AVAILABLE ISSUE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
5 BULLETIN.

6 (II) POSTING THE LIST ON THE PUBLICLY
7 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE OF THE COMMISSION.

8 (IV) WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
9 SUBPARAGRAPH, THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION SHALL
10 ISSUE A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE IMPACT THAT
11 THE CURRENT MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PHYSICAL FITNESS,
12 PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND EDUCATION PREREQUISITES TO
13 EMPLOYMENT AS A POLICE OFFICER MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE ON
14 RECRUITMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF INDIVIDUALS TO
15 SERVE AS POLICE OFFICERS IN JURISDICTIONS ACROSS THIS
16 COMMONWEALTH. THIS SUBPARAGRAPH SHALL EXPIRE UPON
17 TRANSMISSION OF THE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE
18 JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO
19 THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU THAT THE REPORT HAS BEEN
20 SENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

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22 Section 2. This act shall take effect ~~in 60 days~~
23 IMMEDIATELY.

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