
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1535 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY DENLINGER, BELFANTI, BOYD, CLYMER, COHEN, FLECK,
GINGRICH, HENNESSEY, MAHONEY, RAPP, ROHRER, STERN AND
YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 18, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 18, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for powers and
3 duties of Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training
4 Commission.

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

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

9 § 2164. Powers and duties of commission.

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

11 (1) To establish and administer the minimum courses of
12 study for basic and in-service training for police officers
13 and to revoke an officer's certification when an officer
14 fails to comply with the basic and in-service training
15 requirements or is convicted of a criminal offense or the
16 commission determines that the officer is physically or
17 mentally unfit to perform the duties of his office or
18 determines that a police officer subject to section 2166.1

1 (relating to prohibition on political activity) has engaged
2 or participated in the conducting of political or election
3 campaign activity in violation of that section.

4 (2) To approve or revoke the approval of any school
5 which may be utilized to comply with the educational and
6 training requirements as established by the commission.

7 (3) To establish the minimum qualifications for
8 instructors, to approve or revoke the approval of any
9 instructor and to develop the requirements for continued
10 certification.

11 (4) To promote the most efficient and economical program
12 for police training by utilizing existing facilities,
13 programs and qualified Federal, State and local police
14 personnel.

15 (5) To make an annual report to the Governor and to the
16 General Assembly concerning the administration of the
17 Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Program and
18 the activities of the commission, together with
19 recommendations for executive or legislative action necessary
20 for the improvement of law enforcement and the administration
21 of justice.

22 (6) To require every police officer to attend a minimum
23 number of hours of in-service training as provided for by
24 regulation, unless the officer's employer files a show cause
25 document with the commission requesting additional time for
26 the officer to comply with the in-service training
27 requirements. Approval of this request shall be made by the
28 commission on a case-by-case basis.

29 (7) To require all police officers to undergo a
30 background investigation to determine the individual's

1 suitability for employment as a police officer. This
2 investigation shall be completed prior to the employment of
3 the officer and shall include a criminal history check, a
4 credit check, personal interviews and any other applicable
5 means of determining eligibility. An applicant who has been
6 convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor shall not be
7 eligible for employment as a police officer.

8 (8) To require minimum standards for physical fitness,
9 visual acuity, audio acuity, psychological evaluation and
10 education as prerequisites to employment as a police officer.
11 The standards shall require an applicant to have audio acuity
12 sufficient to distinguish a normal whisper at a distance of
13 15 feet. The test shall be independently conducted for each
14 ear while the tested ear is facing away from the speaker and
15 the other ear is firmly covered with the palm of the hand. If
16 the applicant fails this test, the applicant shall be
17 required to take and pass a decibel audio test. The applicant
18 may use a hearing aid or other aid to perform any audio
19 acuity test required under this subsection.

20 (9) To appoint an executive director to administer the
21 training program established by this subchapter. The position
22 of executive director shall be filled by the commission which
23 shall select the best qualified person from a list of three
24 persons nominated by the chairman. The person who receives a
25 simple majority of those members present and voting shall
26 become the executive director. If the commission rejects all
27 nominees, then the process shall be repeated until a person
28 is selected. The executive director shall be directly
29 responsible to the commission and may be dismissed only by
30 two-thirds vote of the commission. The executive director

1 shall employ a sufficient staff, including professional,
2 administrative and clerical personnel, to perform the tasks
3 of the office, including the preparation of an annual budget.

4 (10) To consult and cooperate with universities,
5 colleges, community colleges and institutes for the
6 development of specialized courses for police officers.

7 (11) To consult and cooperate with departments and
8 agencies of this Commonwealth and other states and the
9 Federal Government concerned with police training.

10 (12) To certify police officers who have satisfactorily
11 completed basic educational and training requirements as
12 established by the commission and to issue appropriate
13 certificates to those police officers.

14 (13) To visit and inspect approved schools at least once
15 a year.

16 (14) To make such rules and regulations and to perform
17 such other duties as may be reasonably necessary or
18 appropriate to implement the education and training program
19 for police officers.

20 (15) To grant waivers of mandatory basic training to
21 police officers who have successfully completed previous
22 equivalent training or who have acceptable full-time police
23 experience, or both.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.