

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL**No. 641**Session of
1971

INTRODUCED BY STAPLETON, COPPERSMITH, MAZZEI, NOSZKA, MELLOW,
STAUFFER, DWYER, MESSINGER, McCREESH AND AMMERMAN,
APRIL 26, 1971

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, NOVEMBER 10, 1971

AN ACT

1 Creating the Municipal Police Officers Standards and Training
2 Program within the Pennsylvania State Police; providing for
3 powers and duties of the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania
4 State Police; exempting experienced officers; giving credit
5 for educational achievement; providing for the creation of
6 the Governor's Advisory Commission.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Municipal Police Officers Standards and Training
10 Program.--The Pennsylvania State Police shall establish a
11 Municipal Police Officers Standards and Training Program in
12 accordance with the provisions of this act.

13 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act:

14 (1) "Municipal police basic training school" means a
15 training school or academy which provides a basic police
16 training course within the functional organization of a police
17 department.

18 (2) "Municipal police officer" means any regularly employed
19 member of a city, borough, town, township, or county police

1 department assigned to criminal and/or traffic law enforcement
2 duties.

3 (3) "Police department" means any public agency of a
4 political subdivision having general police powers and charged
5 with making arrests in connection with the enforcement of the
6 criminal and/or traffic laws.

7 Section 3. Powers and Duties of the Commissioner of the
8 Pennsylvania State Police.--The duties of the Commissioner of
9 the Pennsylvania State Police shall be as follows:

10 (1) To approve or revoke the approval of any municipal
11 police basic training school and to issue certificates of
12 approval to such schools and to revoke such certificates of
13 approval.

14 (2) To set the minimum courses of study, minimum
15 qualification for attendance, and the equipment and facilities
16 to be required of approved municipal police basic training
17 schools.

18 (3) To set the minimum qualifications for the instructors at
19 approved municipal police basic training schools, to certify, as
20 qualified, instructors at approved municipal police basic
21 training schools and to issue appropriate certificates to said
22 instructors.

23 (4) To set the requirements of minimum basic training which
24 municipal police officers appointed to probationary terms shall
25 satisfactorily complete before being eligible for permanent
26 appointment. Said minimum basic training must be completed
27 within six months following the appointment to the probationary
28 term, unless the candidate is granted additional time to
29 complete his training by said commission. In the event that
30 additional time is granted for the candidate to complete his

1 training the probationary term shall be extended sixty days
2 beyond the completion of training, notwithstanding the
3 provisions of any other act or ordinance.

4 (5) To certify municipal police officers who have
5 satisfactorily completed basic training programs, meeting the
6 minimum training standards and to issue appropriate certificates
7 to such police officers.

8 (6) To visit and inspect municipal police basic training
9 schools and to inspect each school at least once each year.

10 (7) To consult, and cooperate with, universities, colleges,
11 and institutes for the development of specialized courses of
12 study for municipal police officers in police administration and
13 police science.

14 (8) To consult, and cooperate with, other departments and
15 agencies of this Commonwealth and other states and the Federal
16 Government concerned with police training.

17 (9) To establish, where necessary, municipal police basic
18 training schools in existing facilities to provide the minimum
19 basic course to municipal police officers.

20 (10) To offer training as funds are available, to municipal
21 police officers appointed prior to the effective date of this
22 act.

23 (11) To establish municipal police basic training programs
24 which will utilize to the fullest extent, feasible and desirable
25 the facilities and expertise of the Pennsylvania State Police.

26 (12) To make such rules and regulations and to perform such
27 other duties as may be reasonably necessary or appropriate to
28 accomplish the purposes and objectives of this act.

29 Section 4. Exemption of Experienced Officers.--Police
30 officers already serving under permanent appointment on the

1 effective date of this act shall not be required to meet any
2 requirement of this act as a condition of tenure or continued
3 employment, nor shall failure of any such police officer to
4 fulfill such requirements make him ineligible for any
5 promotional examination for which he is otherwise eligible. The
6 General Assembly finds, and it is hereby declared to be the
7 policy of this act, that such police officers have satisfied
8 such requirements by their experience.

9 Section 5. Credit for Educational Achievement.--To encourage
10 the recruitment of well qualified police officers, after the
11 effective date of this act, each candidate for employment as a
12 police officer who receives passing scores on his employment
13 entrance examinations shall have credits, as established by the
14 Governor's Advisory Commission, added to his total examination
15 scores for studies which he has satisfactorily completed at an
16 accredited institution of higher learning in a program leading
17 to a degree.

18 Section 6. Applicability to the Civil Service Laws.--Nothing
19 in this act shall be construed to exempt any police officer or
20 other officer or employe from the provisions of the existing
21 Civil Service Laws or the Tenure Act.

22 Section 7. Appointment of Personnel.--The Commissioner of
23 the Pennsylvania State Police shall appoint such personnel as
24 may be required for the proper conduct of a Municipal Police
25 Officers Standards and Training Program.

26 Section 8. Governor's Advisory Commission.--The Governor by
27 executive order shall create an advisory commission to assist
28 the Pennsylvania State Police in carrying out the provisions of
29 this act.

30 The Governor shall appoint the chairman and the members of

1 such commission and they shall serve at his pleasure. The
2 Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police shall be the
3 Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Commission.

4 Members of the commission shall serve without compensation
5 other than reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses
6 incurred in the performance of their duties.

7 Section 9. Reimbursement of Expenses.--The Pennsylvania
8 State Police shall provide for reimbursement to each political
9 subdivision of one hundred per cent of the allowable tuition,
10 living and travel expenses incurred by their officers while
11 attending certified municipal police basic training schools,
12 providing said political subdivision adheres to the selection
13 and training standards established by the Pennsylvania State
14 Police, and further providing said political subdivision
15 separately or as part of a cooperative agreement with
16 neighboring political subdivisions maintains a unified police
17 department of at least ten uniformed personnel. The regular
18 salary of police officers while attending approved schools,
19 within the meaning of this act, shall be paid by the employing
20 political subdivision.

21 ~~Section 10. Effective Date. This act shall take effect~~ <—
22 ~~immediately excepting clause (4) of section 3 which shall be~~
23 ~~effective at such time as the Governor's Advisory Commission~~
24 ~~determines approved schools and facilities are available to make~~
25 ~~compliance with clause (4), section 3 practicable.~~