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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1988 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY OWLETT, OBERLANDER, STRUZZI, CAUSER, MIZGORSKI,  
COOK, R. BROWN, SNYDER, D. WILLIAMS, BERNSTINE, SMITH, JAMES,  
CIRESI, MOUL AND OTTEN, OCTOBER 22, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 22, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in employees, further providing for  
3 definitions and for automatic certification.

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

6 Section 1. The definitions of "college," "police  
7 department," "police officer" and "university" in section 2162  
8 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are  
9 amended to read:

10 § 2162. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
12 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 \* \* \*

15 "College." A college which has a campus police department,  
16 as used in section 2416 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177,  
17 No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, certified by  
18 the Office of Attorney General as a criminal justice agency

1 under the definition of "criminal justice agency" in 18 Pa.C.S.  
2 § 9102 (relating to definitions). [The term does not include the  
3 State System of Higher Education and its member institutions.]

4 \* \* \*

5 "Police department." Any of the following:

6 (1) A public agency of a political subdivision having  
7 general police powers and charged with making arrests in  
8 connection with the enforcement of the criminal or traffic  
9 laws. This paragraph includes the sheriff's office in a  
10 county of the second class.

11 (2) A campus police or university police department, as  
12 used in section 2416 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177,  
13 No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, certified  
14 by the Office of Attorney General as a criminal justice  
15 agency under the definition of "criminal justice agency" in  
16 18 Pa.C.S. § 9102 (relating to definitions). [This paragraph  
17 does not include a campus police or university police  
18 department of the State System of Higher Education and its  
19 member institutions.]

20 (3) A railroad or street railway police department  
21 formed with officers commissioned under 22 Pa.C.S. Ch. 33  
22 (relating to railroad and street railway police) or any prior  
23 statute providing for such commissioning.

24 (4) The Capitol Police.

25 (5) The Harrisburg International Airport Police.

26 (6) An airport authority police department.

27 (7) A county park police force under section 2511(b) of  
28 the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The  
29 County Code.

30 "Police officer." Any of the following:

1 (1) A full-time or part-time employee assigned to  
2 criminal or traffic law enforcement duties of any of the  
3 following:

4 (i) A police department of a county, city, borough,  
5 town or township.

6 (ii) Any railroad or street railway police.

7 (iii) Any campus or university police department,  
8 including the State System of Higher Education and its  
9 member institutions.

10 (iv) The Capitol Police.

11 (v) The Harrisburg International Airport Police.

12 (vi) An airport authority police department.

13 (2) A deputy sheriff of a county of the second class.

14 (3) A security officer of a first class city housing  
15 authority or a police officer of a second class city housing  
16 authority.

17 (4) A county park police officer.

18 The term excludes persons employed to check parking meters or to  
19 perform only administrative duties and auxiliary and fire  
20 police.

21 \* \* \*

22 "University." A university which has a campus police  
23 department, as used in section 2416 of the act of April 9, 1929  
24 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929,  
25 certified by the Office of Attorney General as a criminal  
26 justice agency under the definition of "criminal justice agency"  
27 in 18 Pa.C.S. § 9102 (relating to definitions). [The term does  
28 not include the State System of Higher Education and its member  
29 institutions.]

30 Section 2. Section 2168(b) of Title 53 is amended to read:

1 § 2168. Automatic certification.

2 \* \* \*

3 (b) Campus or university police.--

4 (1) Any campus or university police officer who, as of  
5 August 27, 1993, has successfully completed a basic training  
6 course similar to that required under this subchapter shall,  
7 after review by the commission, be certified as having met  
8 the basic training requirements of this subchapter. Any  
9 campus or university police officer who, as of August 27,  
10 1993, has not successfully completed a basic training course  
11 similar to that required under this subchapter which  
12 qualifies the police officer for certification under this  
13 subsection shall be able to perform the duties of a campus or  
14 university police officer until certified by the commission,  
15 but no later than August 29, 1994.

16 (2) Campus police as defined in section 2001-A(20) of  
17 the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the  
18 Public School Code of 1949, who have successfully completed  
19 the basic training course from the commission before or on  
20 the effective date of this paragraph shall be automatically  
21 certified by the commission.

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.