



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2043

PRINTERS NO. 4218

PRIME SPONSOR: Hahn

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact
Motor License Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) by authorizing partial waivers of basic training to federal law enforcement officers and military police who have successfully completed equivalent training and to provide a mechanism to suspend police officers. This legislation would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation would amend Title 53 §2164, relating to the powers and duties of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

The legislation would provide MPOETC the authority to suspend (as opposed to decertify) police officers. Specifically, MPOETC is given the authority to suspend or revoke the certification of a police officer or the approval of a school instructor for a violation of 37 Pa.Code Chapter 203 (relating to administration of program). A hearing examiner will recommend to MPOETC whether a police officer's certification or school instructor's approval shall be suspended or revoked. In the case of suspension, the hearing examiner shall recommend a period of suspension, which may be approved by MPOETC. A police officer or school instructor can reapply for certification or approval after the period of suspension. A police officer or instructor whose certification or approval was revoked before, on or after the effective date of the act may apply to MPOETC for reinstatement no sooner than one year following the date of revocation. MPOETC must develop standards and guidelines to determine whether certification or approval should be reinstated. Separate standards must be developed for suspension and revocation.

This legislation would provide the MPOETC with the power to grant partial waivers of mandatory basic training to federal law enforcement officers and military police officers who have successfully completed previous equivalent training. The legislation specifies that federal law enforcement officers and military police officers must fulfill basic police training requirements and meet the minimum standards required for certification.

The legislation also provides that the MPOETC must consult with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and other state, community and local organizations knowledgeable about traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to determine the training needs of police officers with respect to recognizing and interacting with veterans and other individuals with TBI and PTSD. If MPOETC determines there is a need for specialized training, MPOETC shall develop a course that shall be made available to all police officers and law enforcement agencies within PA.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no immediate adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. According to the State Police, it is expected that issues related to traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) could be incorporated within the Commission's regularly recurring training programs. Any operational and administrative expenses would be covered as part of current authorized funding.

However, in the event a separate training course would be required specifically for the issues of TBI & PTSD, the cost to develop such a course would be approximately \$200,000 for trainers, software development, and related course materials.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 17, 2012

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.