

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Dom Costa

SUBJECT: Police officer credit for on line training (former HB2741)

DATE: December 30, 2010

In the near future, I plan to reintroducing legislation to help our local police officers get credit for online training.

The current training model, regulated by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), requires our police officers to complete classes of various lengths and intensities. Many officers complain that because of current regulations, officers are required to sit in a classroom for extra time to satisfy the time requirement even though the class itself may have concluded long before. This is a waste of our officers' time and MPOETC's money.

My bill would allow our police officers to utilize online methods to accomplish up to one-half of MPOETC's training requirements. MPOETC would have the ability under my legislation to determine which classes could be completed online and which classes require hands-on, in class training. This legislation would modernize MPOETC's training requirements and allow our officers to spend more time where they are best utilized – on the streets.

This legislation is not a new concept as it has been introduced by others in previous and current sessions. As a former Chief of Police, I believe that this legislation remedies challenges presented by previous incarnations of this legislation. Rather than utilizing MPOETC's current "training hours" method, my bill creates a "credit system" similar to methods used by colleges. MPOETC is required to evaluate each class and assign each class a credit-hours weight. I propose this change because as you all know, different people have different capacities when dealing with computers and online training programs. Some people may need 3 hours to complete a training class whereas another person may only need 1 hour. My bill evaluates the class and provides credits based on the intensity of the training, not the time it takes to complete the training.

This piece of legislation was written with and supported by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. I hope you'll join me to assist our police officers in this endeavor. If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Maribel Echevarria in my Harrisburg office at (717) 783-9114 or via email at mechevar@pahouse.net.

Prior Co-sponsors: CALTAGIRONE, MATZIE, BARBIN, BELFANTI, BROOKS, BROWN, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, GERGELY, GROVE, HARKINS, HORNAMAN, KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY, MARKOSEK, McGEEHAN, McILVAINE SMITH, MILLARD, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PETRARCA, ROCK, SIPTROTH, STABACK, SWANGER, VULAKOVICH, WHITE AND DePASQUALE