

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1295

S.P. 525

In Senate, March 25, 2025

**An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements
for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully
Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions**

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and
Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, BLACK of Franklin, CYRWAY of Kennebec, MARTIN
of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: MINGO of Calais, PERKINS of Dover-
Foxcroft, TUELL of East Machias.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2804-C, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 147, §29, is further amended to read:

1. Required. As a condition to the continued employment of any person as a full-time law enforcement officer by a municipality, a county, the State or any other nonfederal employer, that person must successfully complete, within the first 12 months of initial full-time employment, the basic training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy approved by the board. If a person's failure to comply with this requirement was a result of that person's failure to satisfy any of the admission standards applicable to the basic training course and that person is subsequently employed as a full-time law enforcement officer within 12 months of termination of the initial employment by a municipality, a county, the State or any other nonfederal employer, the person must have satisfied all the admission standards established by the board prior to the time of hire. As a condition of continued employment as a full-time law enforcement officer, the officer must satisfactorily maintain the basic certification by completing the recertification requirements prescribed by the board. The board, under extenuating and emergency circumstances in individual cases, may extend the 12-month period for not more than 180 days. The board also, in individual cases, ~~may~~ shall waive the basic training requirement when the facts indicate that an equivalent course has been successfully completed.

Sec. 2. Maine Criminal Justice Academy; study law enforcement training requirement waiver. The Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy shall conduct a study and develop recommendations regarding the waiver of the basic law enforcement training requirement in individual cases pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2804-C, subsection 1. In conducting the study, the board shall focus on reducing unnecessary or burdensome requirements that would prevent a law enforcement officer who has completed an equivalent training course from qualifying for the waiver. No later than December 3, 2025, the board shall submit a report containing the findings and recommendations of the study, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

SUMMARY

Current law permits, but does not require, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to waive basic training requirements for newly employed law enforcement officers that have completed an equivalent basic law enforcement training course. This bill changes the waiver from permissive to mandatory if an officer has completed an equivalent training course. Additionally, the bill directs the board to conduct a study to review the current waiver requirements and suggest legislation to reduce any unnecessary or burdensome requirements that would prevent a law enforcement officer from qualifying for a law enforcement basic training waiver.