



# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1994**

Legislative Document

No. 1692

H.P. 1265

House of Representatives, January 11, 1994

An Act to Clarify the Certification Procedures of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Submitted by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to Joint Rule 24. Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative KONTOS of Windham. Cosponsored by Representative: BOWERS of Washington.

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

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Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2804-B, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 521, §§5 and 17, is amended to read:

7. Reserve and other part-time law enforcement officers. The board shall certify law enforcement officers who successfully complete preservice law enforcement training as reserve or part-time law enforcement officers. Thereafter, as a condition of continued service as a reserve or part-time law enforcement officer, the officer must satisfactorily maintain the preservice maintain a roster certification. The board shall of all currently certified reserve or part-time law enforcement The roster shall be available for inspection by the officers. public at the academy during regular working hours.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2804-C, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 521, §§5 and 17, is amended to read:

20 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 other nonfederal employer, 22 that person must successfully complete, within the first 12 24 months of employment, a basic training course approved by the board. Thereafter, as a condition of continued employment as a full-time law enforcement officer, the officer must 26 satisfactorily maintain the basic certification. The board, under extenuating and emergency circumstances in individual 28 cases, may extend that period for not more than 90 days. In 30 addition, the board may waive in individual cases the basic training requirement when the facts indicate that an equivalent course has been successfully completed. This section does not 32 apply to any person employed as a full-time law enforcement 34 officer by a municipality on September 23, 1971, or by a county on July 1, 1972.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2804-D, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 521, §§5 and 17, is amended to read:

40Required. As a condition to the continued employment of 1. any person as a full-time corrections officer by a municipality, county, the State or other nonfederal employer, that person must 42 successfully complete, within the first 12 months of employment, a basic training course of not less than 80 hours as approved by 44 the board. Thereafter, as a condition of continued employment as a full-time corrections officer, the officer must satisfactorily 46 maintain the basic certification. The board, in individual 48 cases, may waive basic training requirements when the facts indicate that an equivalent course has been successfully completed in another state or federal jurisdiction within the 50

Page 1-LR3072(1)

last 2 years. This section applies to any person employed as a full-time corrections officer on or after July 6, 1978. Administrators of facilities where there are corrections officers who are not full-time are encouraged to develop an orientation program for those persons.

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2806, sub-§2,  $\P A$ , as corrected by RR 1991, c. 2, §97, is amended to read:

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A. For subsection 1, paragraph A and subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (2), (4) or (5), in-accordance with-Title-57-chapter-3757-subchapter-IV $_{\pm}$ 

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(1) In accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter IV; or

(2) Upon notice, through conducting an informal conference with the office. If the board finds the factual basis of the complaint is true and that further action is warranted, it may enter into a consent agreement with the officer, which may contain provisions including voluntary surrender of the certificate and terms and conditions of recertification.

#### Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §2806, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Confidentiality; access to documents. All complaints, 28 charges or accusations of misconduct, replies to those complaints, charges or accusations and any other information or 30 materials that may result in suspension or revocation of a certificate of eligibility are confidential. If action is taken 32 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter IV, the board shall issue a written decision. This decision must state the conduct or other facts on the basis of which action is being taken and 34 the reason for that action. Once issued, the written decision is not confidential regardless of whether it is appealed under 36 subsection 3-A.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Currently, the law provides that a law enforcement or corrections officer must successfully complete within the first l2 months of employment a basic training program as specified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. There is no express requirement in the law that the officer maintain this basic certification. This bill makes explicit the requirement that an officer maintain this basic certification. This bill also imposes a like requirement on part-time and reserve officers.

L.D.1692

This bill also makes changes to the laws governing the procedures for complaints and investigations handled by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. The board conducts investigations and holds adjudicatory hearings related to allegations of certain misconduct on the part of law enforcement and corrections officers. The board is presently without specific authority to maintain confidentiality over its complaints and investigative records. This bill adds language that mirrors current statutory confidentiality provisions of municipal personnel records and personnel records of the Department of Public Safety that permits the board to maintain the confidentiality of its complaints and investigative records during the pendency of an investigation, but allows public access to the final written decision relating to any certification action taken by the board.

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This document has not yet been reviewed to determine the need for cross-reference, stylistic and other technical
amendments to conform existing law to current drafting standards.

Page 3-LR3072(1) L.D.1692