

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5/31/05

L.D. 1659
(Filing No. H-595)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Majority

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1170, L.D. 1659, Bill, "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Crimes against People Who Are Homeless"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2804-C, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Training regarding people who are homeless. The board shall include in the basic law enforcement training program a block of instruction aimed specifically at reducing barriers to reporting crimes against people who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses who are homeless.

Sec. 2. Required recertification law enforcement training. The Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy shall include requirements in its next available schedule of recertification training for all law enforcement officers a block of instruction aimed specifically at reducing barriers to reporting crimes against people who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses who are homeless. The board shall thereafter determine quadrennially whether further training in the next available schedule of recertification training is necessary as a refresher or to incorporate improved procedures or practices demonstrated

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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to reduce barriers to reporting crimes against people who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses who are homeless.

Sec. 3. Relationship between law enforcement agencies and homeless. The Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General shall review the relationship between law enforcement agencies and people who are homeless and shall explore methods of encouraging law enforcement agencies in communities with significant homeless populations or that have homeless shelters within their areas of jurisdiction to take concrete and meaningful steps to improve relations with people who are homeless and their advocates. As part of their review, the commissioner and the Attorney General shall consider ways to encourage regular meetings between law enforcement officers and advocates, representatives of the homeless community and people who are homeless to discuss issues of concern to the homeless community, the status of pending cases when appropriate and issues raised by the law enforcement agency.

The commissioner and the Attorney General shall report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature on the results of their review and the status of the relationship between law enforcement agencies and people who are homeless.'

SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and replaces the bill. The amendment strikes the provision in the bill that adds "homelessness" to the factors that a court may take into consideration as factors leading to enhancement of sentences. The amendment makes changes to the law enforcement training provisions in the bill by specifying that the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy shall add to the basic training program and shall include in its next available recertification training requirements a block of instruction aimed specifically at reducing barriers to reporting crimes committed against persons who are homeless and dealing with the unique challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses who are homeless. The amendment also strikes from the bill language that directs the Attorney General to facilitate the

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1170, L.D. 1659

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designation by each law enforcement agency of at least one officer to serve as a liaison between the agency and the homeless community served by the agency.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1659

LR 2132(02)

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Crimes against People Who Are Homeless

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Majority Report

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund