

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SAK
ROS

L.D. 1980

Date: 3/12/26

(Filing No. S-540)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 775, L.D. 1980, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§74-M is enacted to read:

74-M.

Public Safety Law Enforcement Retention Advisory Council Not Authorized 25 MRSA §3891

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2842, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Designation of status as first responder. A death certificate for an individual must include whether the decedent had previously worked as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, dispatcher or emergency medical services person. For purposes of this subsection, "law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 17, "firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 752-E, subsection 2, "dispatcher" has the same meaning as in Title 5, section 18313, subsection 1 and "emergency medical services person" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2804-E, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 147, §34, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Role of board; recertification. The board shall establish in-service recertification training requirements, consistent with subsection 1, and coordinate delivery of in-service training. The in-service recertification training requirements must include:

A. Information on new laws and court decisions;

B. Information on new enforcement practices demonstrated to reduce crime or increase officer safety; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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1 C. Wellness training that prepares law enforcement officers for the psychological,
2 emotional and physical stress associated with service. The training must be evidence-
3 based and provided in person by a law enforcement officer and a licensed mental health
4 professional. The training must be completed within the first 3 years of a law
5 enforcement officer's receiving certification pursuant to section 2803-A. For the
6 purposes of this paragraph, "law enforcement officer" means a law enforcement officer
7 that has successfully completed the basic law enforcement training program under
8 section 2804-C, has received a basic law enforcement training program waiver under
9 section 2803-A or has successfully completed the basic corrections training under
10 section 2804-D.

11 The board shall consider and encourage the use of telecommunications technology in the
12 development and delivery of in-service training programs. In establishing the
13 recertification training requirements, the board shall cooperate with the state and local
14 departments and agencies to which the in-service requirements apply to ensure that the
15 standards are appropriate. In-service training may not be applied to satisfy in-service
16 recertification training requirements unless it is approved by the board.

17 **Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2804-F, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 147, §35, is
18 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

19 **2. Role of board.** The board shall establish in-service training requirements,
20 consistent with subsection 1, and coordinate delivery of in-service training. The in-service
21 recertification training requirements must include information on:

22 A. New laws and court decisions; and

23 B. Wellness training that prepares corrections officers for the psychological, emotional
24 and physical stress associated with service. The training must be evidence-based and
25 provided in person by a law enforcement officer and a licensed mental health
26 professional. The training must be completed once within the first 3 years of a
27 corrections officer's receiving certification pursuant to section 2803-A.

28 The board shall consider and encourage the use of telecommunications technology in the
29 development and delivery of in-service training programs. In establishing the
30 recertification training requirements, the board shall cooperate with the state and local
31 departments and agencies to which the in-service requirements apply to ensure that the
32 standards are appropriate. In-service training may not be applied to satisfy in-service
33 recertification training requirements unless it is approved by the board.

34 **Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §2809, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1989, c. 521, §§14 and 17, is
35 amended to read:

36 **4. Training for exempt law enforcement officers.** An explanation and evaluation of
37 the training provided by the state agencies for their law enforcement officers who are
38 exempt from the requirements of this chapter under section 2801-B; and

39 **Sec. 6. 25 MRSA §2809, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 1989, c. 521, §§14 and 17, is
40 amended to read:

41 **5. Other information.** Any other information the Legislature may request or the
42 board determines is appropriate; and

43 **Sec. 7. 25 MRSA §2809, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

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1 6. Law Enforcement Retention Advisory Council reports. Any reports produced
2 by the Law Enforcement Retention Advisory Council pursuant to its duties under chapter
3 415.

4 Sec. 8. 25 MRSA c. 415 is enacted to read:

5 CHAPTER 415

6 LAW ENFORCEMENT RETENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

7 §3891. Law Enforcement Retention Advisory Council

8 1. Law Enforcement Retention Advisory Council; established; duties. The Law
9 Enforcement Retention Advisory Council, as established by Title 5, section 12004-I,
10 subsection 74-M and referred to in this chapter as "the advisory council," shall advise the
11 Commissioner of Public Safety, referred to in this chapter as "the commissioner," on the
12 development and implementation of state and local policies and programs for the purposes
13 of improving the recruitment, retention and wellness of law enforcement officers, as
14 defined in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 17. The advisory council may submit reports
15 with recommendations to the commissioner, the joint standing committee of the Legislature
16 having jurisdiction over public safety matters and any other organization.

17 2. Membership. The advisory council consists of the commissioner, or the
18 commissioner's designee, and, at a minimum, the following members appointed by the
19 commissioner:

20 A. An individual representing a statewide chapter of a national fraternal order of
21 police;

22 B. An individual representing a statewide association of police;

23 C. An individual representing a statewide association advocating for law enforcement
24 officials within the Bureau of State Police;

25 D. An individual representing a statewide law enforcement association;

26 E. An individual representing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy;

27 F. An individual representing a coalition of mental health providers in the State who
28 specialize in treating first responders as the coalition's sole practice;

29 G. An individual representing a postsecondary educational institution in the State with
30 programs focused on law enforcement or mental health;

31 H. An individual representing a statewide association of chiefs of police;

32 I. An individual representing a statewide association of sheriffs;

33 J. A student representing a secondary school program focused on law enforcement
34 education in the State; and

35 K. An individual representing retired law enforcement officers in the State.

36 The commissioner may appoint additional members to the advisory council in consultation
37 with members of the advisory council.

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1 3. Terms; vacancies. Members of the advisory council serve 3-year terms and may be
2 reappointed by the commissioner. When a vacancy occurs, the commissioner shall fill the
3 vacancy by appointing a member from the same category under subsection 2 as the member
4 who vacated the advisory council, and that member continues to serve for the remainder of
5 the term.

6 **Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
7 allocations are made.

8 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**
9 **Criminal Justice Academy 0290**

10 Initiative: Provides funding for one MCJA Law Enforcement Wellness Coordinator
11 position and All Other costs.

12 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
13 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
14 Personal Services	\$0	\$125,356
15 All Other	\$0	\$5,000
16		
17 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$130,356

18
19 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
20 number to read consecutively.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment implements the recommendations
23 of the Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and
24 Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers. The amendment:

- 25 1. Creates the Law Enforcement Retention Advisory Council;
- 26 2. Requires the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's annual report to include any report
27 produced by the advisory council;
- 28 3. Requires a death certificate to reflect whether the decedent had previously worked
29 as a first responder;
- 30 4. Requires the board of trustees of the academy to incorporate in-service law
31 enforcement training that includes law enforcement officer wellness training for full-time
32 law enforcement officers that have successfully completed the basic law enforcement
33 training program, received a basic law enforcement training program waiver or
34 successfully completed the basic corrections training; and
- 35 5. Provides funding for one MCJA Law Enforcement Wellness Coordinator position
36 within the Department of Public Safety.

37 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
38 (See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1980

LR 2532(02)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S.540)
Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$130,356	\$134,868	\$139,544
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$130,356	\$134,868	\$139,544

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation to the Department of Public Safety of \$130,356 in fiscal year 2026-27 for one MCJA Law Enforcement Wellness Coordinator position and All Other costs to incorporate in-service law enforcement training that includes law enforcement office wellness training.

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt the changes in this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.