

SENATE PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

H. 578

An act relating to requiring all state law enforcement officers to serve under the direction and control of the commissioner of public safety.

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by adding a Sec. 2a, and Sec. 2b to read as follows:

Sec. 2a. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY; REPORT

The commissioner of public safety shall file a report with the house and senate committees on government operations by January 15, 2011. The report shall explain the commissioner's efforts to develop criteria to measure the reduction of redundancies and the increase in communication as set forth in Sec. 1 of this act. The report shall also recommend improvements in the command and coordination of Vermont law enforcement agencies.

Sec. 2b. CERTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(a) The general assembly finds that because the Vermont police academy requires candidates for certification as a full-time law enforcement officer to undergo 16 weeks of extensive physical training in addition to meeting academic requirements, older individuals or individuals with minor physical disabilities who are otherwise exceptionally qualified to discharge law enforcement duties are precluded from obtaining full-time certification and thus full-time employment as a law enforcement officer. While other states and jurisdictions have left physical training requirements to the hiring law enforcement agencies, the Vermont criminal justice training council has continued the physical training requirements, extending the cost and length of the basic training program, even though the hiring law enforcement agency already has selected and employed the candidates who seek full-time certification.

(b) The executive director of the Vermont criminal justice training council, the attorney general or designee, a designee of the department of sheriffs and state's attorneys who does not serve on the Vermont criminal justice training council, the defender general or designee, the executive director of the human rights commission or designee, and a Vermont constable selected by the chair of the trustees of the Vermont league of cities and towns shall make recommendations regarding:

(1) the advisability of granting full-time certification to law enforcement officers who have been certified as part-time officers for at least the past ten years and who have been employed a total of at least 8,000 hours as an officer discharging law enforcement duties during that period due to the fact that those officers have been unable to obtain full-time certification for failure to meet the physical fitness standards of the Vermont criminal justice training council;

(2) whether full-time law enforcement officers should be required to fulfill physical fitness standards on a periodic basis.

(c) The chair of the committee shall be the attorney general or his or her designee. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the house and senate committees on government operations and the house and senate judiciary committees no later than January 15, 2011.