

Act No. 141 (H.765). Public safety; Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council; law enforcement officer certification

An act relating to establishing new levels of law enforcement officer certification

The main effect of this act is to eliminate the current part-time and full-time certification of law enforcement officers and replace it with a tiered system of certification. Under the current part- and full-time certification, all certified law enforcement officers have the same law enforcement authority (or scope of practice), but part-time certified officers receive less training to become certified and are only limited in the number of hours that they may practice. In lieu thereof, the act establishes three new levels of certification — Level I, Level II, and Level III — with each level having a different scope of practice and training requirements in accordance with that scope. This change in certification will take place on July 1, 2015 and on that date, an officer certified as part-time will be considered a Level II certified officer and an officer certified as full-time will be considered a Level III certified officer, unless officers request to be certified at a lower level.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 22, 2014