

Chair Maida Townsend,

Due to the Vermont Sheriff's Association monthly meeting tomorrow. I can not be there, however please accept this email as my testimony.

The Vermont Sheriffs' Association (VSA) appreciates the opportunity to submit its position on S. 192 as passed by the Senate.

The VSA believes that the responsibility and authority given to the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (Council) under Act 56 should remain unchanged. The Council is responsible to setting the training and certification standards for law enforcement so it makes sense that it decides when certification is suspended or revoked.

The VSA fully supports the following process: The Council will contract for the services of an administrative hearing officer to conduct hearings for contested de-certification complaints and issue findings of fact and conclusions of law. The findings and conclusions will be binding upon the Council but the Council may ask the hearing officer to clarify or make additional findings. The Council retains the authority to decide what action to take based upon findings and conclusions. The VSA believes use of an administrative hearing officer assures objectivity and that the public has input through the civilian members appointed to the Council.

The VSA also believes that this process will NOT be costly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheriff Bohnyak