

**DRAFT; NOT YET EDITED; FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION;**  
**POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS AS OF 4/19/18**

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate Bill No. 273 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous law enforcement amendments” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Training \* \* \*

**Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2351 is amended to read:**

§ 2351. CREATION AND PURPOSE OF COUNCIL

\* \* \*

(b) The Council is created to encourage and assist municipalities, counties, and governmental agencies of this State in their efforts to improve the quality of law enforcement and citizen protection by maintaining a uniform standard of ~~recruitment~~ recruit and in-service training for law enforcement officers.

**Comment [BAW1]:** Technical correction.

\* \* \*

~~Red strikethrough~~ = removed from bill; **Yellow highlighting** = added to bill

1 **Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2351a is amended to read:**

2 § 2351a. DEFINITIONS

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) “Executive officer” means the highest-ranking law enforcement  
5 officer of a law enforcement agency.

6 (2) “Law enforcement agency” means the employer of a law  
7 enforcement officer.

8 (3) “Law enforcement officer” means an employee of the Vermont  
9 Police Academy as permitted under section 2356 of this chapter; a member of  
10 the Department of Public Safety who exercises law enforcement powers; a  
11 member of the State Police; a Capitol Police officer; a municipal police officer;  
12 a constable who exercises law enforcement powers; a motor vehicle inspector;  
13 an employee of the Department of Liquor Control who exercises law  
14 enforcement powers; an investigator employed by the Secretary of State; a  
15 Board of Medical Practice investigator employed by the Department of Health;  
16 an investigator employed by the Attorney General or a State’s Attorney; a fish  
17 and game warden; a sheriff; a deputy sheriff who exercises law enforcement  
18 powers; a railroad police officer commissioned pursuant to 5 V.S.A. chapter  
19 68, subchapter 8; or a police officer appointed to the University of Vermont’s  
20 Department of Police Services.

21 \* \* \*

**Comment [BAW2]:** See next section.

~~Red strikethrough~~ = removed from bill; **Yellow highlighting** = added to bill

1 **Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2356 is added to read:**

2 § 2356. VERMONT POLICE ACADEMY; LAW ENFORCEMENT

3 OFFICERS

4 (a) A person employed by the Vermont Police Academy who is certified as  
5 a law enforcement officer under this chapter and who maintains that  
6 certification shall be a law enforcement officer with statewide law enforcement  
7 authority.

8 (b) The ability of a person to be a certified law enforcement officer solely  
9 through his or her employment at the Vermont Police Academy pursuant to  
10 subsection (a) of this section shall not qualify that person for Group C  
11 membership in the Vermont State Retirement System.

12 Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2352 is amended to read:

13 § 2352. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

14 (a)(1) The Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall consist of:

15 (A) the Commissioners of Public Safety, **of Corrections,** ~~of~~  
16 ~~Corrections,~~ of Motor Vehicles, ~~and~~ of Fish and Wildlife, and of Mental  
17 Health;

18 (B) the Attorney General;

19 (C) a member of the Vermont Troopers' Association or its successor  
20 entity, elected by its membership;

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1 (D) a member of the Vermont Police Association, elected by its  
2 membership; and

3 (E) ~~five additional members appointed by the Governor.~~

4 (i) ~~The Governor's appointees shall provide broad representation~~  
5 ~~of all aspects of law enforcement and the public in Vermont on the Council.~~

6 (ii) ~~The Governor shall solicit recommendations for appointment~~  
7 ~~from the Vermont State's Attorneys Association, the Vermont State's Sheriffs~~  
8 ~~Association, the Vermont Police Chiefs Association, and the Vermont~~  
9 ~~Constables Association~~ a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of  
10 Vermont, appointed by the President of the Association;

11 (F) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the  
12 President of the Association;

13 (G) a law enforcement officer appointed by the President of the  
14 Vermont State Employees Association;

15 (H) an employee of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns,  
16 appointed by the Executive Director of the League;

17 (I) an employee of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services,  
18 appointed by the Executive Director of the Center; and

19 (J) three public members who shall not be law enforcement officers; ||  
20 or current legislators; or otherwise be employed in the criminal justice system,  
21 one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom

Comment [BAW3]: Per editor request

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1 shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees, and one of whom  
2 shall be appointed by the Governor.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2355 is amended to read:

5 § 2355. COUNCIL POWERS AND DUTIES

6 (a) The Council shall adopt rules with respect to:

7 (1) the approval, or revocation thereof, of law enforcement officer  
8 training schools and off-site training programs, which shall include rules to  
9 identify and implement alternate routes to certification aside from the training  
10 provided at the Vermont Police Academy;

11 \* \* \*

12 (b)(1)~~(A)~~ The Council shall conduct and administer training schools and  
13 offer courses of instruction for law enforcement officers and other criminal  
14 justice personnel. The Council shall offer courses of instruction for law  
15 enforcement officers in multiple regions of the State and shall strive to replace  
16 overnight courses with these regional trainings whenever possible.

17 ~~(B) The Council shall offer its training programs for law enforcement~~  
18 ~~officers on a first come, first served basis and only for named individuals.~~

19 (2) The Council may also offer the basic officer's course for ~~pre-service~~  
20 preservice students and educational outreach courses for the public, including  
21 firearms safety and use of force.

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Sec. 6. COUNCIL; REPORT ON TRAINING ALTERNATIVES

On or before January 15, 2019, the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations regarding the Council's identification and implementation of alternate routes to certification and its plan to replace some of its overnight law enforcement training requirements at the Robert H. Wood, Jr. Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center of Vermont (Police Academy) with training in multiple regions of the State, in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 2355 in Sec. ~~2~~ 5 of this act. The report shall specifically address any budgetary implications of the provisions of Sec. 5. The report may be in verbal form.

Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. § 2358 is amended to read:

§ 2358. MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS; DEFINITIONS

\* \* \*

(b) The Council shall offer or approve basic training and annual in-service training for each of the following three levels of law enforcement officer certification in accordance with the scope of practice for each level; and shall determine by rule the scope of practice for each level in accordance with the provisions of this section:

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1 (1) Level I certification.

2 \* \* \*

3 (2) Level II certification.

4 \* \* \*

5 (3) Level III certification.

6 \* \* \*

7 (c)(1) All programs required by this section shall be approved by the  
8 Council.

9 (2) The Council shall structure its programs so that an officer certified  
10 as a Level II law enforcement officer may complete additional training in  
11 block steps in order to transition to Level III certification, without such an  
12 officer needing to restart the certification process.

**Comment [BAW4]:** Effective date extended until 7/1/20. See effective dates in last section of bill.

13 (3) Completion of a program shall be established by a certificate to that  
14 effect signed by the Executive Director of the Council.

15 \* \* \*

16 Sec. 8. 20 V.S.A. § 2361 is amended to read:

17 § 2361. ADDITIONAL TRAINING

18 (a) Nothing in this chapter prohibits any ~~State law enforcement~~ agency,  
19 ~~department, or office or any municipality or county of the State~~ from providing  
20 additional training beyond basic training to its personnel where no certification  
21 is requested of or required by the Council or its Executive Director.

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1 (b) ~~The head of a State agency, department, or office, a municipality's chief~~  
2 ~~of police, or a sheriff~~ executive officer of a law enforcement agency may seek  
3 certification from the Council for any in-service training he ~~or~~ she, or his or  
4 her designee may provide to ~~his or her employees~~ law enforcement officers of  
5 his or her agency, or of another agency, or both.

6 \* \* \* Vermont State Retirement System; Group C Membership \* \* \*

7 **Sec. 9. LAW ENFORCEMENT STATE RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

8 **STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT**

9 (a) Creation. There is created the Law Enforcement State Retirement  
10 Benefits Study Committee to evaluate the requirements for membership in  
11 Group C of the Vermont State Retirement System (System) and to make  
12 recommendations to the General Assembly on any proposed changes to those  
13 requirements.

14 (b) Membership.

15 (1) The Committee shall be composed of the following  
16 10 members:

17 (A) a current member of the House Committee on Appropriations,  
18 appointed by the Speaker;

19 (B) a current member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,  
20 appointed by the Committee on Committees;

1            (C) a current member of the House Committee on Government

2            Operations, appointed by the Speaker;

3            (D) a current member of the Senate Committee on Government

4            Operations, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

5            (E) the State Treasurer or designee;

6            (F) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

7            (G) the Commissioner of Human Resources or designee;

8            (H) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

9            (I) **the President** of the Vermont State Employees' Association **or**

10           designee; and

11           (J) **the Executive Director** of the Vermont Troopers' Association **or**

12           designee.

13           (2) Any vacancy in membership shall be filled by the appointing

14           authority for the remainder of the term.

15           (c) Powers and duties.

16           (1) Group C analysis. The Committee shall review the requirements for

17           membership in Group C of the System as set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 455(a)(9)(B)

18           and (11)(C) and shall review all current employee positions classified as

19           Group C in order to perform the following analyses;

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1           (A) Whether the requirements for membership in Group C are  
2           appropriately tailored to provide the appropriate retirement benefit to the  
3           appropriate group of employees; and

4           (B) Whether applicable federal requirements, including the  
5           provisions of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, merit changes to the  
6           requirements of Group C.

7           (2) Retirement benefit recommendations. In accordance with its  
8           findings made pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Committee  
9           shall make the following recommendations:

10           (A) Whether any State employee positions currently in Group C  
11           should be reclassified to another group within the System, given the nature of  
12           the job duties performed by members in those positions;

13           (B) Whether any State employee positions not currently in Group C  
14           should be reclassified into Group C, given the nature of the job duties  
15           performed by members in those positions; and

16           (C) Whether the General Assembly should consider any revisions or  
17           enhancements to the retirement benefits for certain State employee positions  
18           that do not qualify for the current or recommended Group C requirements, if  
19           the Committee finds that the nature of the position and job duties performed  
20           merit such revisions.

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1           (3) Actuarial analysis; appropriation.

2           (A)(i) The State Treasurer shall consult with an actuary in order to  
3 determine any financial impact on the System as a result of changes  
4 recommended under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

5           (ii) The amount of \$75,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of  
6 State Treasurer for any actuarial analysis performed under this subdivision (3).

7           (B) The Committee shall review the actuarial analysis performed by  
8 the State Treasurer and make any adjustments to its recommendations as it  
9 deems appropriate in light of the financial impact on the System.

10          (d) Assistance.

11          (1) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, legal, and  
12 fiscal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal  
13 Office.

14          (2) The Offices of the State Treasurer and of the Attorney General, the  
15 Agency of Administration, the Department of Finance and Management, the  
16 Department of Human Resources, and the Agency of Digital Services shall  
17 provide support to the Committee as applicable.

18          (e) Meetings.

19          (1) The Office of Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the  
20 Committee to occur on or before **September 15, 2018.**

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1           (2) The Committee shall select co-chairs from among its membership,

2           one of whom shall be a member of the House and one of whom shall be a

3           member of the Senate, serving in their capacity as a legislator.

4           (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

5           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on the date it submits its final  
6           report.

7           (f) Compensation and reimbursement.

8           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
9           Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in his or her  
10           capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
11           reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406. These payments shall  
12           be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

13           (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem  
14           compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. §  
15           1010. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency  
16           of Administration.

17           (g) Reports.

18           (1) On or before January 15, 2019, the Committee shall provide a  
19           progress report to the House and Senate Committees on Government  
20           Operations and on Appropriations.



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1 ~~definitions to be used in entering data into a law enforcement agency's system~~  
2 ~~of records, and every law enforcement officer shall use those definitions when~~  
3 ~~entering data into his or her agency's system.~~

4 ~~\*\*\* Coverage \*\*\*~~

5 ~~Sec. 10. 20 V.S.A. chapter 113, subchapter 2 is amended to read:~~

6 ~~Subchapter 2. State Police~~

7 ~~\*\*\*~~

8 ~~§ 1916. STATE POLICE BARRACKS; DUTY TO PROVIDE CALL~~  
9 ~~INFORMATION~~

10 ~~On a quarterly basis, each State Police barracks shall submit to the~~  
11 ~~selectboard of each town within the barracks' jurisdiction a report describing~~  
12 ~~the nature of calls to the State Police from residents in that town in the~~  
13 ~~preceding quarter, without providing any personally identifying information.~~

14 ~~Sec. 11. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; REPORT ON TOWN~~  
15 ~~CALLS TO THE VERMONT STATE POLICE~~

16 ~~(a) The Department of Public Safety shall determine the number of calls~~  
17 ~~from towns the Vermont State Police received in fiscal year 2018 and, in~~  
18 ~~consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as necessary,~~  
19 ~~determine the number of those calls that came from each town without a police~~  
20 ~~department.~~

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1 ~~(b) On or before November 15, 2018, the Commissioner of Public Safety~~  
2 ~~shall report to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government~~  
3 ~~Operations and the House Committees on Judiciary and on Government~~  
4 ~~Operations regarding the Department's findings as set forth in subsection (a) of~~  
5 ~~this section.~~

6 \* \* \* Law Enforcement Advisory Board \* \* \*

7 Sec. 12. LEAB; REPEAL FOR RECODIFICATION

8 24 V.S.A. § 1939 (Law Enforcement Advisory Board) is repealed.

9 Sec. 13. 20 V.S.A. § 1818 is added to read:

10 § 1818. LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

11 (a) The Law Enforcement Advisory Board is created within the Department  
12 of Public Safety to advise the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor,  
13 and the General Assembly on issues involving the cooperation and  
14 coordination of all agencies that exercise law enforcement responsibilities.  
15 The Board shall review any matter that affects more than one law enforcement  
16 agency. The Board shall comprise the following members:

17 (1) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

18 (2) a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont appointed  
19 by the President of the Association;

20 (3) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association appointed by the  
21 President of the Association;

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1           (4) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns  
2 appointed by the Executive Director of the League;

3           (5) a member of the Vermont Police Association appointed by the  
4 President of the Association;

5           (6) the Attorney General or designee;

6           (7) a State’s Attorney appointed by the Executive Director of the  
7 Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs;

8           (8) the U.S. Attorney or designee;

9           (9) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training  
10 Council;

11           ~~(10) the Defender General or designee;~~

12           (11) **the Executive Director** of the Vermont Troopers’ Association or  
13 **designee;**

14           (12) a member of the Vermont Constables Association appointed by the  
15 President of the Association; and

16           (13) **the President** of the Vermont State Employees Association **or**  
17 **designee.**

18           (b) The Board shall elect a chair and a vice chair, which positions shall  
19 rotate among the various member representatives. Each member shall serve a  
20 term of two years. The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair or a majority  
21 of the members. A quorum shall consist of seven members, and decisions of

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1 the Board shall require the approval of a majority of those members present  
2 and voting.

3 (c) The Board shall undertake an ongoing formal process of reviewing law  
4 enforcement policies and practices with a goal of developing a comprehensive  
5 approach to providing the best services to Vermonters, given the monies  
6 available. The Board shall also provide educational resources to Vermonters  
7 about public safety challenges in the State.

8 (d)(1) The Board shall meet at its discretion to develop policies and  
9 recommendations for law enforcement priority needs, including retirement  
10 benefits, recruitment of officers, training, homeland security issues,  
11 dispatching, and comprehensive drug enforcement.

12 (2) The Board shall present its findings and recommendations in brief  
13 summary form to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on  
14 Government Operations annually on or before January 15.

15 Sec. 14. LEAB; RECODIFICATION DIRECTIVE

16 (a) 24 V.S.A. § 1939 is recodified as 20 V.S.A. § 1818. During statutory  
17 revision, the Office of Legislative Council shall revise accordingly any  
18 references to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 in the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

19 (b) Any references in session law and adopted rules to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 as  
20 previously codified shall be deemed to refer to 20 V.S.A. § 1818.

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1 Sec. 15. LEAB; 2019 REPORT ON MUNICIPAL ACCESS TO LAW

2 ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AND ON AGENCY DATA

3 STANDARDS FOR RECORD SYSTEMS

4 As part of its annual report in the year 2019, the Law Enforcement  
5 Advisory Board shall:

6 (1) specifically recommend ways that towns can increase access to law  
7 enforcement services; and

8 (2) consult with the Vermont Crime Information Center, the Crime  
9 Research Group, and other interested stakeholders regarding the manner in  
10 which law enforcement agencies enter data into their systems of records of the  
11 commission of crimes and related information in order to recommend in the  
12 report how agencies can improve that data entry so that crime data is entered  
13 uniformly and in a manner that meets the Center's requirement to have a  
14 uniform system of crime records as set forth in 20 V.S.A. § 2053.

15 \* \* \* Dispatch \* \* \*

16 Sec. 16. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE VERMONT

17 ENHANCED 911 BOARD; PROPOSAL FOR AN EQUITABLE

18 STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SYSTEM

19 (a)(1) The Department of Public Safety and the Vermont Enhanced 911  
20 Board shall consult with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as an equal  
21 partner in order to propose a plan that would result in a comprehensive,

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1 efficient, and equitably funded public safety dispatch system to dispatch law  
2 enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services statewide. In proposing the  
3 plan, consideration shall be given to existing and planned regional dispatch  
4 centers.

5 (2) Included in the proposed plan shall be recommendations regarding:

6 (A) the manner in which different dispatch services should  
7 communicate among each other;

8 (B) whether there should be different dispatching services used  
9 among State agencies and departments;

10 (C) the role of regional dispatch centers;

11 (D) the funding source or sources for the proposed plan; and

12 (E) the timeframe for implementing the proposed plan.

13 (b) On or before November 1, 2019, the Department and the Board shall  
14 jointly submit the proposed plan to:

15 (1) the Senate Committees on Finance, on Government Operations, on  
16 Appropriations, and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs;

17 (2) the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development,  
18 on Government Operations, on Appropriations, and on Ways and Means; and

19 (3) the Governor.

