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Christopher J. Brickell Chief of Police



Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senator White: Chairwoman
Re: S.26: Act relating to miscellaneous law enforcement amendments

Feb. 20, 2017

Dear Senator White,

I am familiar with S.26 and was part of testimony last year on related bills. I would like to provide your committee with my testimony on S.26 as proposed. As Chairman of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council I would like to let your committee know of the council's position on sections of this proposed legislation.

Under definitions (2351a) the Council is in full support of the definitions as proposed, specifically defining "law enforcement officer" as an employee of the Vermont Police Academy. The council supports the Executive Director of the Vermont Police Academy designating employees as law enforcement officers, who have completed the requirements for certification. We also as a council support their inclusion into the group "C" retirement system. While we understand there may be some opposition to the retirement piece on behalf of some elected Sheriffs, the Sheriff's Association has a seat on the council and the vote was unanimous in moving forward with this piece of legislation.

The council is also in full support of section 2359 "Executive and Supervising Officers, Certification Requirements". The council supports all executive officers being required to be level III Officers with the exception of an elected official, or those currently in supervisory positions.

The council did not discuss and issues relative to the Law Enforcement Advisory Board.

While the membership of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council is broad, we were unanimous in our position of the aforementioned issues. Additionally I reaffirmed my position on the council as the representative of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police. Our association also supports this bill.

I apologize for not being able to provide testimony in person today, but am available for any further questions or follow up should the committee have any questions.

Respectfully,

Chairman, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council

Community, Commitment, Integrity

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