

# Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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## *FISCAL NOTE*

Date: September 17, 2020  
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### **S.124 - An act relating to government structures protecting the public health, safety and welfare, *Draft 4.1***

*House Committee on Government Operations Proposal of Amendment*

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/House%20Government%20Operations/Bills/S.124/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Summaries/S.124~BetsyAnn%20Wrask~Draft%204.1,%209-17-2020~9-17-2020.pdf>

Sec. 4 – This section amends the structure of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council membership, including the addition of more public members.

- The *Senate version* would expand the membership from 12 to 20 members and allow the new public members (only) of the council to receive per diem compensation and reimbursement of expense under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.<sup>1</sup>
  - These costs are estimated to be between \$2,300 and \$3,800 per year.
  - This estimate assumes between 3 to 5 public members would be eligible to receive reimbursements for up to six meetings annually.
- The *House Government Operations amendment* would expand the membership from 12 to 24 members and would allow all members to receive per diem compensation and reimbursement under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.
  - Costs are estimated to be between \$5,300 and \$6,800 per year.
  - This estimate assumes between 7 and 9 members would be eligible to receive reimbursements for up to six meetings annually.
- Both versions specify that these costs would be covered by monies appropriated to the Council. Given the nominal costs, no additional appropriation required.

Sec. 7 – (c)(2) of this section states “*the Council shall structure its programs so that on and after July 1, 2021, a Level II certified officer may use portfolio experiential learning or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing in order to transition to Level III certification, without such an officer needing to restart the certification process.*” According to the Council, they have a very small staff and will have their budget reduced in the FY21 budget. In addition to these and other pressures on the Council, there is real concern that at this time, they do not have the staff or the financial resources to meet the timeline or fulfill the requirements laid out in this section. As such additional resources may be required.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/32/015/01010>

Sec. 22 – This section recodifies the Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB) in statute as well as adds four new members. However, there is no current or new language allowing for per diem compensation or reimbursement of expense. As such no additional appropriation is required to fund this section of the bill.

Sec. 26 – This section prohibits DPS from charging fees in any new contractual agreements to perform dispatch functions for state, municipal, or other emergency services until the General Assembly establishes a dispatch fee structure. It is our understanding that DPS does not currently bill local entities for dispatch costs.<sup>2</sup> As such there should be no additional loss of revenues.

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<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that while local entities receiving dispatch services from DPS pay nothing, there is a cost for other local entities that receive dispatched services elsewhere.