



State of Vermont
Department of Public Safety



**Summary Report of Findings and
Recommendations
(20 VSA § 1818 (d)(2))**

Law Enforcement Advisory Board

January 15, 2026

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I. Background

A. About the Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB)

The Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB) was established by the Vermont General Assembly in 2004 under [20 V.S.A. §1818](#). The LEAB’s primary purpose is to advise the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, and the General Assembly on issues involving cooperation and coordination among all agencies exercising law enforcement authority in Vermont. By statute, the LEAB “shall review any matter that affects more than one law enforcement agency.”

B. LEAB Membership

Membership of the LEAB is determined by statute and includes a diverse group of stakeholders representing law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice entities. Members serve as representatives of their respective organizations.

The 2024 membership includes:

Legislative Designee	Member
Commissioner of Public Safety or designee	Mandy Wooster
Director of the Vermont State Police	Matthew Birmingham
Director of the Enforcement Division of the Department of Fish and Wildlife	Colonel Justin Stedman
Executive Director Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles Enforcement and Safety	Wade Cochran
Chief of the Capitol Police Department	Chief John Poleway
Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Services Division	This position no longer exists.
Member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont, appointed by the President of the Association	Chief James Pontbriand

Legislative Designee	Member
Member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the President of the Association	Sheriff Jennifer Harlow (Vice Chair)
Representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, appointed by the Executive Director of the League	Trevor Whipple (Chair)
Member of the Vermont Police Association, appointed by the President of the Association	Brandon King
Attorney General or designee	Domenica Padula
State's Attorney appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs	Timothy Lueders-Dumont
U.S. Attorney or designee	Anthony Facos
Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council	Christopher Brickell
Defender General or designee	Matthew Valerio
Representative of the Vermont Troopers' Association or its successor entity, elected by its membership	Michael O'Neil
Member of the Vermont Constables Association, appointed by the President of the Association	Constable Mark Belisle
Law enforcement officer, appointed by the President of the Vermont State Employees Association	Robert Stebbins

C. LEAB Duties and Responsibilities

The LEAB is tasked with the following responsibilities under its statutory mandate:

- Advising the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, and the General Assembly on issues related to law enforcement cooperation and coordination.
- Identifying issues of importance to Vermont’s law enforcement community and taking testimony on these matters.
- Offering recommendations to improve operational practices, resource allocation, and public safety outcomes.
- Producing an annual report summarizing its activities, findings, and recommendations.

D. LEAB Meetings and Process

The LEAB conducts regular meetings throughout the year to discuss priority topics, review testimony, and formulate recommendations. These meetings are attended by Board members and often include input from subject matter experts, stakeholders, and community representatives.

In 2025, the LEAB convened on January 13, May 19, September 15 and November 17. Meetings on March 24 and July 14 were cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

The LEAB develops its recommendations using a collaborative and transparent process. It frequently forms working groups to address specific issues. This approach ensures that its guidance is grounded in evidence-based practices and reflects the diverse needs of Vermont’s law enforcement agencies.

E. LEAB Reports

By statute, the LEAB must present its findings and recommendations in “brief summary form” to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary and Government Operations no later than January 15 each year.

This serves as the required report.

1. 2025 outcomes

The LEAB began 2025 with full intention of developing a model pursuit policy for the State of Vermont. The inability to obtain a quorum for two meetings and reassignment of members during the year led to this project not being completed. The importance of such a project is highlighted by recent events in Vermont and around the nation. Vermont law enforcement executives have differing opinions on the directives contained in a pursuit policy. It is important that the LEAB restart this project with an eye on providing stakeholders with the opportunity to have input.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor S. Whipple
Law Enforcement Consultant
Vermont League of Cities and Towns
Chair Law Enforcement Advisory Board