

HOUSE BILL 1526

E4

8lr2269
CF SB 344

By: **Delegates Sanchez, Pena–Melnyk, Angel, D. Barnes, Brooks, Cullison, Fennell, Frick, Gutierrez, Hettleman, Hill, Knotts, Korman, Lam, R. Lewis, Lierman, Lisanti, McIntosh, A. Miller, Moon, Morales, Mosby, Queen, Rosenberg, Stein, Sydnor, Tarlau, Valderrama, A. Washington, Wilson, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2018

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Police Officer**
3 **Certification – Eligibility**
4 **(Freedom to Serve Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements for an individual to be certified by
6 the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission as a police officer to
7 require an individual to be either a United States citizen or a permanent legal
8 resident of the United States who is an honorably discharged veteran of the United
9 States armed forces under certain circumstances; and generally relating to police
10 officer certification.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Public Safety
13 Section 3–209
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Public Safety**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 3–209.

2 (a) The Commission shall certify as a police officer each individual who:

3 (1) (i) satisfactorily meets the standards of the Commission; or

4 (ii) provides the Commission with sufficient evidence that the
5 individual has satisfactorily completed a training program in another state of equal quality
6 and content as required by the Commission;

7 (2) submits to a psychological evaluation by a psychologist approved by the
8 Commission; [and]

9 (3) submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with §
10 3–209.1 of this subtitle; AND

11 (4) (I) IS A UNITED STATES CITIZEN; OR

12 (II) IS A PERMANENT LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
13 AND AN HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
14 FORCES, PROVIDED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES TO APPLY FOR OR OBTAIN
15 UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP WITHIN 6 YEARS OF THE EMPLOYMENT START DATE
16 WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

17 (b) The Commission may certify as a police officer an individual who is not
18 considered a police officer under § 3–201(f)(3) of this subtitle if the individual meets the
19 selection and training standards of the Commission.

20 (c) Each certificate issued to a police officer under this subtitle remains the
21 property of the Commission.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2018.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.