

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 500
Judiciary

(Delegate Rosenberg)

Police Procedures - Requiring a Person to Lie Prone

This bill authorizes a police officer to require a person to lie prone on the ground only when it is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to obtain compliance with lawful commands or to resolve a conflict. In deciding whether to require a person to lie prone on the ground, a police officer must consider any knowledge or lack of knowledge about the person's mental or physical conditions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC), an independent commission within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, operates approved police training schools and prescribes standards for and certifies schools that offer police and security training. In consultation and cooperation with various entities, it also sets minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for approved training schools.

Among other requirements, MPTSC requires, for entrance-level police training and, as determined by MPTSC, for in-service level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study

include (1) training in lifesaving techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation; (2) training in the proper level and use of force; (3) training regarding sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity; and (4) training regarding individuals with physical, intellectual, developmental, and psychiatric disabilities. In addition, MPTSC requires for entrance-level police training and at least every two years for in-service level police training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include special training, attention to, and study of the application of antidiscrimination and use of force de-escalation training.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford, Montgomery, Talbot, and Wicomico counties; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Department of General Services; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510