

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 134

(Senator Lee)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

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Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Training Requirements -  
Electronic Stalking

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This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to require, for entrance-level police training and at least every three 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 and enforcement of the criminal laws concerning stalking as they pertain to electronic surveillance or tracking, including services available to victims, related prevention methods for victims, and how victims may request additional assistance to identify and preserve digital evidence.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in State expenditures (multiple fund types) for State agencies with law enforcement units to conduct the additional training. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Minimal increase in local government expenditures for some law enforcement agencies, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 519 of 2016 reconstituted the former Police Training Commission as MPTSC, an independent commission within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. MPTSC 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.

MPTSC certifies persons as police officers who have met commission standards, including submission to (1) a criminal history records check; (2) a specified mental health screening; and (3) a specified physical agility assessment. An individual who is not satisfactorily trained in the 12-month probationary period may not be employed as a police officer, and a police officer may not serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.

MPTSC requirements include, among other things, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include special training, attention to, and study of the application of:

- the criminal laws concerning rape and sexual offenses, including the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and related evidentiary procedures;
- the criminal laws concerning human trafficking, including services and support available to victims and the rights and appropriate treatment of victims;
- the criminal law concerning hate crimes, as specified;
- the contact with and treatment of victims of crimes and delinquent acts;
- the notices, services, support, and rights available to victims and victims' representatives under State law; and
- the notification of victims of identity fraud and related crimes of their rights under federal law.

These requirements apply to in-service level police training every three years and entrance-level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school.

**Local Expenditures:** While some of the jurisdictions surveyed regarding the fiscal effect of the bill advise that the bill has no fiscal impact, some anticipate a minimal increase in local expenditures. For example, Washington County advises that the additional time in in-service training could result in a minimal increase in overtime expenditures (approximately \$1,700 in fiscal 2023, increasing to approximately \$2,600 by fiscal 2027). Worcester County reports that local expenditures increase by approximately \$1,500 annually due to the additional training necessary. The Maryland Association of Counties likewise anticipates that any costs incurred by counties are minimal. The Maryland Municipal League advises that the bill may result in a marginal increase in municipal expenditures to accommodate the additional training. Overall, any increase in costs for local governments is anticipated to be minimal.

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Kent, Montgomery, Washington, and Worcester counties; Maryland Association of Counties; City of Salisbury; Maryland Municipal League; towns of Bel Air and Leonardtown; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 2022  
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