

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1988

PRINTER NO. 3592

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

October 22, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Owlett

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1988 amends Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow for the certification of campus police officers by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

This legislation amends the definitions of "law enforcement officer" in § 67A01 (relating to definitions) of Title 42 and "college," "police department," "police officer" and "university" in § 2162 (relating to definitions) of Title 53.

The amended definitions place campus police or university police officers and departments of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and its member institutions under MPOETC for police certification, commission and training.

Section 2168. (relating to automatic certification) is amended by adding a subsection to provide for school police officer certification. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a school police officer, as defined in section 1301-C of the act of March 14, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, shall be eligible to maintain certification if the school police officer meets the following:

- 1) Satisfactorily completed the basic educational and training requirements;
- 2) Satisfactorily completed the minimum number of in-service training hours established by MPOETC and required to maintain certification; and
- 3) Either:
 - i. Has an active certification on or after the effective date of this subsection; or
 - ii. Was previously certified as a police officer by MPOETC, which certification lapsed within the last two years, and has been employed, with no lapse in service, as a school police officer in this Commonwealth.

Campus police, as defined in § 2001-A (20) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, who have successfully completed the basic training course from MPOETC and obtained a psychological evaluation for employment as a law enforcement officer before the effective date of this section shall be automatically certified by MPOETC.

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FISCAL NOTE

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Act 89 of 2013 authorized an annual grant of \$5 million for the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) to reimburse certain expenses related to training municipal police officers. Reimbursements under this grant are only considered for police officers who are trained and certified through the Act 120 program.

Any costs to MPOETC related to fulfilling additional certifications outlined in this legislation are capable of being accommodated within the commission's current workload and budget.