

Law Enforcement Training and Certification Standards

Summary of Proposed Changes to Title 149, Series 2

The members of the Law Enforcement Professional Standards (LEPS) Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction, in recognition of the need to make necessary changes to the current rule to allow for the certification and training of West Virginia law enforcement officers to remain current with the best practices and legal decisions concerning such certification and training met April 26-27, 2016 to address proposed changes to this rule. The proposed changes were also presented to the Subcommittee members during their regularly scheduled meeting on June 30, 2016.

As a result of the discussion of the subcommittee members during these meetings, a quorum being present each time, and it being the consensus decision of those present as to each proposed change, a series of changes were set forth to the current rule.

The changes proposed set forth a series of clarifications to the current rule as to actions that may or will be taken, how they are to be taken and by whom and set a sunset date of July 1, 2021 should no further update or changes take place with this rule between these changes and then. It is the current practice of the LEPS Subcommittee members to update and modify the rule as necessary on a yearly basis. New sections have been added to clarify the responsibility of the Subcommittee in determining the need, as to type and number, of entry level training academies within the state and to clarify the authority of the Subcommittee to set and determine the amount of the tuition fee for the entry level training program.

A historical reference to certain law enforcement officials who were eligible to apply for the equivalent certification program during 2003 has been removed as there is no longer a need for this reference. Where previous references to the Committee (Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction – GCCDC) were not replaced with reference to the LEPS Subcommittee following changes made in 30-29, et al, during the 2015 session of the legislature they have now been so replaced.

The required minimum hours of training to be completed in an entry level training academy to gain certification is increased from the current level of 800 to 840. It is to be noted that for an extended period of time that the length of the Basic Class entry level training program has been in excess of 880 hours.

Questions concerning the proposed changes should please be directed to Retired Captain Chuck Sadler, LET Coordinator, at (304) 558-8814, ext 53315, (304) 941-9644 (cell) or Charles.A.Sadler@wv.gov