

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Police pursuits of fleeing suspects

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Overview

This bill requires the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board to adopt a statewide model policy governing the conduct of police pursuits of fleeing suspects and requires state and municipal law enforcement agencies to adopt local police pursuit policies in conformity with the state policy. The bill also requires new and existing peace officers to receive pre-service and in-service training in conducting police pursuits in conformity with learning objectives developed by the POST Board. The bill creates two new programs for distributing tire deflator devices and driving simulators for use by state and local law enforcement agencies and appropriates money for these programs. Finally, the bill appropriates money to reimburse law enforcement agencies for the cost of the mandated police pursuit training.

, 22 Pursuit of fleeing suspects by peace officers; reports. Strike language from two current laws relating to state and local police pursuit policies in order to unify all of the provisions relating to police pursuit policies within one new law (section 3). Leave unchanged the current statutory language in section 1 concerning the duty to report police pursuits within 30 days of the pursuit, because it is located in the appropriate place in chapter 626; *i.e.* the part relating to other, similar reporting requirements.

3 Vehicle pursuits; policies and instruction required.

Subd. 1. Purpose. States the legislative purpose behind section 3. Specifies the need for law enforcement agencies to engage in emergency vehicle operations as part of their duty to safeguard public safety. Also states that continuous and effective training is essential to ensure that law enforcement officers act appropriately in conducting these operations.

Subd. 2. Statewide model policy. Requires the POST board to adopt a new or revised model police pursuit policy by December 31, 1999. Also requires the board to review and, as necessary, revise the model policy in collaboration with law enforcement industry groups. Sets forth the issues that the model policy must address, including the following:

a statement describing the philosophy of the model policy;

the factors to be considered in initiating and terminating pursuits;
the procedures, tactics and technologies used during pursuits;
the various responsibilities of law enforcement officers involved in conducting or supervising the pursuit;
interjurisdictional pursuit issues;
procedures governing care of injured persons;
contents of police pursuit reports filed with the Commissioner of Public Safety; and
procedures for reviewing and evaluating each pursuit.

Subd. 3. Local agency policies required. Requires the chief law enforcement officer of every state and municipal law enforcement agency to adopt and enforce a written policy governing the conduct of police pursuits by officers employed in the agency and to certify annually to the POST board that it has done so. The agencies' policies must, at a minimum, comply with the state model policy and must take into account any pursuit vehicle technology available to the agency. Directs the board to assist law enforcement agencies in complying with this duty.

Subd. 4. Pre-service training in police pursuits required. Requires the POST board to prepare learning objectives for instructing peace officers in emergency vehicle operations and police pursuits. The course must consist of at least seven hours of classroom and skills-based training. Requires all peace officer candidates to have received this training in order to be eligible to take the licensing exam on or after July 1, 2000.

Subd. 5. In-service training in police pursuits required. Requires the head of every state and municipal law enforcement agency to provide in-service training in emergency vehicle operations and police pursuits consisting of at least four hours of classroom and skills-based training. Requires all peace officers to have received this training in order to be eligible for license renewal on or after July 1, 2000.

Subd. 6. Licensing sanctions; injunctive relief. Provides injunctive and licensing sanction remedies for agencies that fail to comply with this section.

4 **Tire deflator distribution program.**

Subd. 1. Distribution program. Directs the commissioner of public safety to administer a program to distribute tire deflators to selected municipal law enforcement agencies for use in their marked squad cars. Requires the commissioner to consult with a committee of law enforcement industry representatives in deciding which agencies are selected to receive the equipment.

Subd. 2. Requirements. Requires agencies that receive tire deflators to provide training in their use to their employees and to compile and report statistics on their use to the commissioner.

Subd. 3. Report. Requires the commissioner to report on this program to the chairs and ranking minority members of the relevant legislative committees by January 15, 2001.

5 **Driving simulator distribution program.**

Subd. 1. Distribution program. Directs the commissioner of public safety to administer a program to distribute computer-controlled driving simulators to selected local law enforcement agencies and POST-certified skills programs. Requires the commissioner to consult with a committee of law enforcement industry representatives in deciding which agencies or programs are selected to receive the equipment.

Subd. 2. Requirements. This subdivision requires agencies and programs that receive a driving simulator to:

provide necessary training to their employees in emergency vehicle operations and in conducting police pursuits;

provide a five-year plan to maintain necessary hardware and update necessary software for operating the simulator;

provide a plan to make the simulators available at reasonable cost and with reasonable availability to other law enforcement agencies for the purpose of training their employees; and

provide an estimate of the availability of the simulator for use by other law enforcement agencies.

Subd. 3. Report. Requires the commissioner to report on this program to the chairs and ranking minority members of the relevant legislative committees by January 15, 2001.

6 **Appropriation; public safety.** Appropriates an unspecified sum from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety for the 2000-2001 fiscal biennium to be used for the tire deflator and driving simulator distribution programs. This is a one-time appropriation.

7 **Appropriation; law enforcement training reimbursement.** Appropriates an unspecified sum from the peace officers training account in the special revenue fund, to be used for police pursuit training reimbursements during the 2000-2001 fiscal biennium. This amount will be added to the POST board's base budget.