

Subject Peace officer recruitment, education, and training

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Overview

Article 1 of this bill creates an intensive, comprehensive peace officer training education and training program that provides free law enforcement education and training to current, highly qualified college-degree holders. The article also creates a peace officer college scholarship program to fund the law enforcement education and training for highly qualified high school graduates, and it funds peace officer “explorer” and mentorship programs.

Article 2 of the bill creates and funds a scholarship program for students preparing to become licensed social workers.

Article 1: Law Enforcement Education and Training

Section Description – Article 1: Law Enforcement Education and Training

- 1 Intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training program.**
- Subd. 1. Establishment; title.** Establishes the intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training program in the Department of Public Safety.
- Subd. 2. Purpose; participant qualities.** Sets forth the program’s purpose – recruiting and training highly qualified college graduates to become peace officers.
- Subd. 3. Eligibility.** Establishes eligibility criteria for participants in the program which include holding a two or four year college degree.
- Subd. 4. Application.** Directs the commissioner to establish an application to the program.
- Subd. 5. Selection committee; purpose; membership.** Directs the commissioner of public safety to convene a selection committee to recommend applicants to participate in the program.

Section Description – Article 1: Law Enforcement Education and Training

Subd. 6. Selection process; commencement of coursework and training. Directs the commissioner to select up to 125 participants each fiscal year. Directs the commissioner to establish a curriculum for the program.

Subd. 7. Nominations. Authorizes chief law enforcement officers to nominate candidates for the program.

Subd. 8. Participant benefits. Establishes the benefits participants are entitled to receive which include tuition-free law enforcement education and training, a stipend, and signing bonuses.

Subd. 9. Participant obligations. Establishes program participant obligations which include completing the training, passing the peace officer licensure exam, and working for at least six years as a peace officer after completion of the program. Requires participants who fail to complete the program or fulfill the employment obligation to reimburse the state.

Subd. 10. Employment obligation. Requires program participants to work as peace officers in the state for at least six years after licensure.

Subd. 11. Education providers; sites. Directs MnState to designate at least four regionally diverse campuses to host the program.

Subd. 12. Education and skills training program. Directs MnState to develop an intensive comprehensive law enforcement education and skills training program to educate and train program participants.

Subd. 13. Job placement assistance; commissioner. Requires the commissioner to assist program participants in finding peace officer positions.

Subd. 14. Hiring law enforcement agencies; extended probationary period granted; reassignment. Permits agencies that hire program graduates 18 months to evaluate their suitability for full-time, nonprobationary service.

Subd. 15. Account established. Establishes an intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training program account in the special revenue fund.

Subd. 16. Definitions. Defines terms used in this section.

2 Peace officer college scholarship program.

Subd. 1. Establishment; title. Establishes the peace officer college scholarship program in the Department of Public Safety.

Section Description – Article 1: Law Enforcement Education and Training

Subd. 2. Purpose; participant qualities. Sets forth the program’s purpose – recruiting and training highly qualified high school graduates to become peace officers.

Subd. 3. Program eligibility. Establishes eligibility criteria for participants in the program which include being a high school graduate and a Minnesota resident.

Subd. 4. Application; program administration. Directs the commissioner to establish an application to the program and develop guidelines and programming necessary to implement the program.

Subd. 5. Nominations. Authorizes chief law enforcement officers to nominate up to two candidates per year for the program.

Subd. 6. Selection committee; membership. Directs the commissioner of public safety to convene a selection committee to recommend applicants to participate in the program.

Subd. 7. Selection process. Directs the commissioner to select up to 125 participants each academic year.

Subd. 8. Participant benefits. Establishes the benefits participants are entitled to receive which include tuition-free law enforcement education and training, a stipend, and supplemental law enforcement skills and leadership training.

Subd. 9. Participant obligations. Establishes program participant obligations which include completing their degree, passing the peace officer licensure exam, and working for at least six years as a peace officer after completion of the program.

Subd. 10. Employment obligation. Requires program participants to work as peace officers in the state for at least six years after licensure.

Subd. 11. Failure to complete degree or satisfy the employment obligation. Requires participants who fail to complete the program or fulfill the employment obligation to reimburse the state for the cost of the program through payment of a student loan.

Subd. 12. Job placement assistance; commissioner. Requires the commissioner to assist program participants in finding peace officer positions.

Subd. 13. Account established. Establishes a peace officer college scholarship account in the special revenue fund.

Section Description – Article 1: Law Enforcement Education and Training

Subd. 14. Definitions. Defines terms used in this section.

3 Appropriations; intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training program.

Subd. 1. Commissioner of public safety; program creation and administration. Appropriates \$13,000,000 to the commissioner to administer the intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training program.

Subd. 2. Public safety; outreach. Appropriates \$800,000 to the commissioner to conduct outreach to recruit participants in the intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training program.

4 Appropriation; public safety; transfer to MnState; peace officer college scholarship program.

Appropriates \$2,600,000 to the commissioner of public safety to administer the peace officer college scholarship program.

5 Appropriation; peace officer explorer program grants; mentor grants.

Subd. 1. Peace officer explorer program grants. Appropriates \$1,000,000 to the commissioner of public safety for grants to local governments that operate peace officer explorer programs, which give young adults ages 14 to 20 an opportunity to explore careers in law enforcement.

Subd. 2. Mentor grants. Appropriates \$1,000,000 to the commissioner of public safety for grants to local governments that provide mentorship programs for graduates of the programs created in sections 1 and 2 of this article.

Article 2: Social Work Scholarships

Section Description – Article 2: Social Work Scholarships

1 Social work scholarship program.

Subd. 1. Program established. Establishes the program within the Office of Higher Education (OHE).

Subd. 2. Eligible students. Sets forth eligibility criteria for the scholarships, which include enrollment in a baccalaureate degree-granting social work program.

Subd. 3. Scholarship amounts. Provides that the scholarships shall cover a recipient's recognized cost of attendance after deducting other scholarships and

Section Description – Article 2: Social Work Scholarships

gift aid received. The cost of attendance at private institutions is capped at the highest cost of attendance at a public university.

Subd. 4. Employment obligation. Requires recipients to work in Minnesota as licensed social workers for four years following completion of their degree program. A recipient who fails to meet this obligation will have the scholarship amount converted to a loan repayable to the state.

Subd. 5. Insufficient appropriation. Provides that, if program funds are insufficient to give full awards to all eligible applicants, the commissioner shall prioritize awards based on students' financial need.

Subd. 6. Report required. Requires an annual report to the legislature on the program.

2 Appropriation; social work scholarships.

Appropriates \$2,600,000 for the social work scholarship program in section 1 of this article. Authorizes OHE to use up to three percent of the appropriation to administer the program.



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