
The original instrument was prepared by Carla S. Roberts. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Alan Miller.

SB 227 Engrossed

DIGEST
2024 Regular Session

Hodges

Present law provides relative to the employment, discipline, training, recruitment, and investigation of peace officers. Provides that, in order to be certified as a level one basic law enforcement peace officer, all persons must successfully complete a minimum of 400 hours of core curriculum for basic peace officers as prescribed by the Council on Peace Officer Standards (P.O.S.T.) certification, whether the peace officers are full time or part-time and regardless of previous law enforcement experience. Provides exceptions to the 400 hour minimum training requirements for certain officers who were employed or volunteered before January 1, 1986, and other exceptions for certain officers who were employed or volunteered prior to January 1, 2022.

Present law provides legislative findings that law enforcement work is of such importance to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state and is of such a nature as to require education and training of a professional character. Provides that the needs of education and training can be met only by programs adequate in quality and scope and made available to those persons who are serving as such officers including those in a temporary or probationary capacity. Further provides that education should also be made available to persons who seek to become peace officers, and this education should be supervised by a special council composed of persons experienced in law enforcement work and the training rather than any other general board composed of nonlaw enforcement members.

Proposed law retains present law and provides legislative intent as it relates to part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers, to state that part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers have been utilized for decades by many police departments around the state and nation and have traditionally served as a valuable remedy to combat staffing shortages and to provide additional security during natural disasters and at events attracting large groups of people. Provides that these reserve, volunteer, and part-time peace officers have routinely been men and women who volunteered to serve their communities by freely giving their time and talent to assist their local law enforcement agencies and often receiving no monetary compensation whatsoever for their considerable past law enforcement experience.

Present law requires all full-time, part-time, and reserve peace officers to successfully complete a minimum of 20 hours of additional in-service training requirements prescribed by the council on an annual basis, beginning the year after the officer has taken 400 hours of training and been P.O.S.T. certified. All initial training requirements must be completed within the first calendar year after receiving P.O.S.T. certification and annually thereafter. Requires, under certain circumstances, that the council may modify, extend, or waive an in-service training requirement on a case-by-case basis. Provides that requests for modifications, extensions, or waivers of annual in-service training requirements for an officer must be in writing submitted from the agency head to the council.

Provides that waivers may be considered for extended continuous medical leave or any other emergency event or events deemed as such by the council.

Proposed law adds requirement that any person beginning employment as a part-time or reserve peace officer in Louisiana on or after January 1, 2022, successfully complete a certified training program approved by the P.O.S.T. council and successfully pass a council-approved comprehensive examination within three calendar years from the date of initial employment.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:2401, 2404.2(B)(1), and 2405(A)(1) and (2), (D), and (E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Deletes legislative findings regarding reduced training for volunteer part-time and reserve police officers with previous law enforcement experience in other states or at the federal level.
3. Adds requirement that any person beginning employment as a part-time or reserve peace officer in Louisiana on or after January 1, 2022, successfully complete a certified training program approved by the P.O.S.T. council and successfully pass a council-approved comprehensive examination within three calendar years from the date of initial employment.
4. Deletes provisions creating a La. P.O.S.T. Reserve Training Academy.