

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
4500 South 6th Street Road, Room 173, Springfield, IL 62703-6617

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

4500 South 6th Street Road, Room 173, Springfield, IL 62703-6617
WebEx Attendance Allowed ~ Subject Matter Only

February 3, 2023
8:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

February 3, 2023, Finance & Legislative Committee meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Chair John Idleburg.

II. ROLL CALL ~ ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called by Michelle Mlinar, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in Attendance:

John Idleburg

Designees in Attendance:

Anthony Escamilla for Iris Martinez
John Carroll for Kwame Raoul

Members Absent:

Tim Nugent
Richard Watson

Staff in Attendance:

Keith Calloway
Jennifer Wooldridge
John Keigher
Pat Hahn
Michelle Mlinar

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Pending Legislation

Chair Idleburg turned the meeting over to Attorney John Keigher to provide a rundown of the latest pending legislation. Keigher stated these are bills are already filed and the Board continues to monitor them. The Board has not taken any official position on any of these bills, and Keigher is looking for feedback if there is any at this time.

- **HB 1022 – Warrior Style Policing – Representative Flowers**
Prohibits any “warrior style” police training – defined as training that dehumanizes people, causes aggressive conduct, dehumanizes human life, or

increases the likelihood of deadly force. None of our courses offered fall into this category.

- HB 1089 – Police Officer Accountability – Representative Flowers
Requires 20 hours of race relations and constitutional methods on the use of force to both be included in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy and the tri-annual in-service training mandates. This relates to specific requirements in areas we believe we are already covering. We generally oppose any bill dealing with specified hours.
- HB 1374 – Community College Police/Fire – Representative Vella
Would allow Community Colleges to work with the Board to operate police academies for those who have not yet been hired. This would fundamentally shift the way police certification works in Illinois and was recently discussed (and rejected) by the SAFE-T Act – which instituted major reforms within the existing structure. After a discussion with Representative Vella earlier in the week, Keigher believes Vella intends for this bill to make a pathway for High School students to pursue the police/fire 2-year degree after graduation and then move on to an academy. This is where we could utilize the Intern program. The Fire Marshall has concerns as well so we may be able to redraft this bill.
- HB 1542 - Camera Grant – Representative Ugaste
Appropriates \$80 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Camera Grant Fund to help with camera mandates.
- HB 1610 - Camera Grant – Representative Didech
Appropriates \$5 million from the camera grant fund to the Board to make grants.

While we don't expect the full amount for the Camera Grant from each of these bills, we do expect some monies to be set aside, possibly from a needs assessment. The \$30M from last year was intended to be a multi-year.

- HB 1611 – DoIT Camera Repository – Representative Didech
Requires DoIT, the state's IT department, to create a repository for body camera data storage to be made available to local law enforcement agencies. This bill tries to address the extreme data storage issues many departments are facing due to the camera grant program.
- HB 1624 – SRO – Representative Spain & HB 1644 – Representative McCombie
These two bills allow the Board to offer the School Resource Officer certification course to retired law enforcement officers who qualify under LEOSA. This presents unique complications as retired officers are not on any law enforcement agency roster, which makes it difficult for the Board to track or utilize funds to support this.
- SB 107 – Drones as First Responders – Senator Holmes
This law sets limitations on how police departments can use drones. The bill makes sure any drone footage taken through public event monitoring is stored for very

limited purposes, is only accessible by certain people, and in general, the use of drones is extremely limited. Under the SAFE-T Act, it allows the Board to investigate a citizen complaint for the misuse of a drone.

B. Discussion of Legislative Proposals and Initiatives

Last year during the veto session the Governor and Lt. Governor's office reached out to us with specific asks. This is a chance for us to be involved with the SAFE-T Act, how it's being implemented, and our concerns about it. There are several things we are concerned with:

- We need to make sure the insurance monies can be used not only for police training, but also for some administrative purposes, mainly testing, development, and certification review – essential components of police training.
- We want to make sure we are getting general grant-making authority.
- We are seeking changes to allow the Board greater access to criminal history records from other states. We also need to clarify that the records we have, but are sealed or expunged, are cleared for consideration in those cases.
- We need to make sure the deferred guilty pleas match up with what it is intended to catch.
- We need to address the confusion and provide clean-up language around the 3-year service mandates from what is required in the Basic training academies and consolidate the 3-year mandates into their section of the Police Training Act.
- We need to clarify the agency has the right to appeal the officer's denial of reactivation. We want to add time to officer reactivation and the waiver process period.
- We need to clarify that officer misconduct reports must be filed in cases of termination.

Last year HB 4667, filed by Representative Cunningham, was filed late, and moved quickly through the House and Senate. This bill as filed, extended the unlawful use of weapons exemptions for police officers to correctional officers. However, it also made it conditional upon the satisfaction of LEOSA requirements and the state laws governing firearm use for peace officers. Research shows correctional officers do not fall into the definition of peace officers, so the bill did not make any changes to the Police Training Act or changes to affect the IROCC program. The bill, as passed, did give some rights and benefits to correctional officers, but did not mandate that the Board make any changes. Going forward we would like to address the concerns and meet the intent of the bill. We are looking at a proposal to enhance the professionalism of the correctional profession and afford them the right to carry firearms, at least in Illinois, if they meet a certain specific class. Currently, correctional officer requirements are lower than what most sheriffs are putting them through, and there

is no requirement to complete the annual firearm requalification. Regarding the issue of the federal benefits that come with LEOSA, this is a federal program that affords specific rights, and our hands are tied. Under our proposal we would bring part-time officers into a training requirement, it would extend the same training and decertification standards for correctional officers and would now include the in-service mandate. We are working with both the Governor and Lt. Governor's office on this. As a note, the Department of Corrections (DOC) was included in this bill and they are not part of our jurisdiction, we do not oversee or approve their training and they do not have to come to us for any type of certification. However, the Governor's office would like for us to work with DOC.

Board Chair Smoot suggested we acquire a legislative liaison at the Capitol to assist the Board and allow us the opportunity to be in discussions at the front end instead of constantly trying to catch up. It was suggested we could either contract an employee through CMS or do an expert contract through procurement. The contract employee is probably not viable at this moment, so we should look for an expert contract. Keigher is currently working on the preliminary paperwork. The Committee agreed to start with an expert contract but move to hire a full-time employee as soon as possible to focus on our needs and issues moving forward. It was noted in the off-season there are JCAR Rules to deal with and the necessity to have someone go out to give informational talks, so a full-time employee makes sense.

Anthony Escamilla asked for clarification regarding the section on training clerks in a law enforcement capacity. Keigher responded that in general this provision is not changed in this bill, but it exists in the Police Training Act. The authorization for the Board to conduct training for the Circuit Clerks goes back to the creation of the Surcharge Fund and how it was managed by the Circuit Clerks. Historically regarding meetings, the Board would financially support or send speakers regarding items of interest. In general, the training was for explaining updates, it was not law enforcement training for Circuit Clerks. It was so the Circuit Clerks knew what law enforcement officers were being trained on and the kind of cases they were handling.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Escamilla, seconded by Carroll, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

