



MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (hereafter referred to as “the Commission”) was statutorily created by Act 120 (hereafter referred to as “Act 120”) of 1974 in response to a federal study urging improved standards and goals in police training. The Commission was charged with establishing and administering the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Program. Responsibility for administration of the program was given to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) as described in 53 Pa. C.S. Chapter 21, Subchapter D.

Commission Composition

The Commission is comprised of 20 members, as required by Act 120. Six seats on the Commission are ex officio positions while the remaining members are appointed by the Governor for a term of three years. Notwithstanding the reimbursement of essential expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, Commission members serve without compensation. The Commission is required to meet at least four times annually and may hold special meetings as necessary. Special meetings are called by the Chairman, or at the request of at least five Commission members. The Commission has committees comprised of Commission members that usually meet prior to each regular Commission meeting, to address specific areas of Commission business.

As required by Act 120, the Commission members shall consist of:

- The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police (Chairperson). *
- The Attorney General of the Commonwealth. *
- The Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development. *
- The Police Commissioner of Philadelphia. *
- One member of the PA Senate, appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate. *
- One member of the PA House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. *
- Four elected officials, appointed by the Governor, including one from a borough, a second-class township, a first-class township, and a city.
- Four incumbent chiefs of police, appointed by the Governor, including one chief from a borough department, a township department, and a city department.
- One member of the Fraternal Order of Police, appointed by the Governor.
- One educator qualified in the field of law enforcement, appointed by the Governor.
- One member representing the public at large, appointed by the Governor.
- Two non-commissioned police officers, appointed by the Governor.
- One director of a certified municipal police training school, appointed by the Governor.

* Denotes Ex Officio Positions

Commission Staff

The PSP is responsible for the administration of the program. The Commission, by statute, elects an Executive Director who is responsible for the day-to-day Commission responsibilities. The Executive Director and Commission staff are assigned to an office within the PSP and report to the Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Professional Responsibility. The Commission produces an annual report concerning the administration of programs and provides recommendations for executive or legislative action necessary for the improvement of law enforcement and the administration of justice. The Commission receives legal services from an Assistant Counsel assigned to the PSP from the Governor's Office of General Counsel. The Commission office is located at 8002 Bretz Drive, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and consists of 19 staff members, including enlisted and civilian PSP personnel. The Commission has an annual budget of approximately two million dollars to cover personnel, general operating expenses, curriculum development, and fixed asset expenses.

The Commission staff oversees the training and certification requirements of municipal police officers under Act 120. Officers require certification by the Commission prior to enforcing the Crimes Code, moving violations of the Vehicle Code, or carrying a firearm. Certification is granted by Commission vote when all criteria of the attendant regulations are met and upon successful completion of the municipal police officer certification exam, which is administered by the Commission staff. To verify that all Act 120 certified police officers continue to meet certification standards, the Commission staff conducts a biennial recertification.

The Commission staff also oversees the development, presentation, and documentation of the basic municipal police officer training curriculum, which currently consists of 919 hours of classroom and practical training conducted by Commission-certified academies and instructors. In addition, the staff reviews and approves various waivers of training for qualified law enforcement officers as provided for in Act 120 and Act 165 of 2012, conducts annual inspections of certified academies, and conducts investigations of academies failing to comply with regulatory standards.

Act 180 of 1988 requires Act 120 certified police officers to obtain 12 hours of in-service training annually to maintain their certification. Each year the Commission staff develops 12 hours of in-service training which can be taken in the classroom or on-line. The Commission decides which training is "required" (essential training; for example, changes to the law and application of case law or legislatively mandated training) and which training/hours are elective. The Commission staff also reviews, approves, and tracks over 600 additional Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) courses, which can be used as credit toward the elective training requirement for recertification.

Act 235 of 1974, commonly referred to as the Lethal Weapons Training Act (LWTA), requires anyone carrying a lethal weapon (as defined in the Act) in conjunction with his or her employment, unless exempted, to receive training and meet certification requirements. The PSP oversees the LWTA program and the Commission staff

administers the program on their behalf. The Commission staff approves new applications, renews certifications, and when applicable, suspends certifications of lethal weapons agents.

The Commission staff performs annual inspections of the certified schools conducting basic and renewal LWTA classes, approves or declines applications for new schools, approves or declines applications for new instructors, and suspends or decertifies schools failing to comply with regulations.

Act 79 of 2005, the Retired Law Enforcement Officers Identification Act (RLEIA), established Pennsylvania's program responsive to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) of 2004, as amended, regarding the authorization for qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms if they meet specific criteria. Act 79 requires Commission staff to administer aspects of RLEIA including certifying firearms instructors, managing qualification cards, tracking annual qualifications, processing money orders, and logging Instructor and Sheriff Office reports.

Act 57 of 2020, required the Commission to develop a database to hold Separation Records of all "law enforcement officers" in the Commonwealth (defined as "peace officers" in Title 18 Pa. C.S. § 501). This term is broad and includes law enforcement officers that work for state agencies, county agencies, and municipal departments, as well as school police and private police working for certain organizations like universities or hospitals. The database became operational on July 14, 2021, and agencies continue to enroll.

Act 60 of 2022, requires the Commission, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania State Police and municipal police department canine units, to establish canine training and certification standards for municipal police officers. The Act requires standards for initial and maintenance certifications of police canine units and also requires record-keeping policies and procedures for police department canine units. The Training and Certification Program is published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and the Commission, if necessary, will review and update the program at least every two years.

Recommendations

Title 53, Chapter 21, Subchapter D § 2170 (a) states “the commission shall provide for reimbursement to each municipality of the entire amount of the allowable tuition and the ordinary and necessary living and travel expenses incurred by their police officers while attending certified municipal police basic training schools”. § 2170 (b) permits the Commission to approve in-service training grants for non-mandatory training expenses incurred by municipalities while § 2170 (d) permits the Commission to pay for the cost of mandatory in-service training for some certified officers.

In 2013, because the Commission had no funds from which to provide these reimbursements, the General Assembly passed Act 89, which allocated five million dollars of funding to the Commission, each fiscal year, to reimburse municipalities for municipal police training. Reimbursement under this funding source is limited to expenses which are consistent with Article VIII, § 11 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Post-Covid, Academy Cadet Classes have now resumed and increased in numbers. Currently, Act 89 monies have been sufficient to reimburse our Academies for Mandatory In-Service Training, and all Municipal Police Departments requesting reimbursement for tuition and salary for Basic Training Cadets who have been hired. However, MPOETC does continue to monitor and evaluate the needs and expenses of our Academies and Police Departments.

Act 120 Basic Training

Candidates for certification as municipal police officers must meet the training requirements of the act. Those who have not previously completed a basic municipal police academy must do so. Cadets who are hired by a police department before attending the academy are referred to as “hired” cadets while those who are still seeking employment are referred to as “pre-service” cadets. The following data reflects the number of individuals who were enrolled in basic police officer training at certified academies from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

Total Enrolled (class started) in 2023:	<u>993</u>
--Hired Enrollments:	<u>585</u> (58% of total enrollments)
--Pre-Service Enrollments:	<u>408</u> (42% of total enrollments)
Total Graduated (class ended) in 2023:	<u>808</u>
--Hired Graduates:	428 (53% graduation rate)
--Pre-Service Graduates:	380 (47% graduation rate)
Total Incomplete/Failed in 2023:	<u>70</u>
--Hired prior to attending academy:	27
--Pre-Service at time of academy:	43

Act 120 Officer Certification

The Commission staff administers certification of municipal police officers employed by certified municipal police departments. To be certified, municipal police officers must pass the state certification exam. Applicants can apply to take the certification exam if they have successfully completed the basic police academy, or if they are granted a waiver based on previous training and employment. Applicants who are currently or conditionally hired by a police department are referred to as “hired” candidates while those who are still seeking employment are referred to as “pre-service” candidates. As noted below, at the end of 2023, there were 20,996 certified municipal police officers employed in Pennsylvania. The following data reflects Act 120 certification actions from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

Active Police Departments:	<u>1,056</u>
Total Certified Officers:	<u>20,996</u>
Revoked Certifications in 2023:	<u>21</u>
Certification Examinations in 2023:	<u>1,145</u>
--Test takers who passed Examination:	<u>985</u> (86% of total test takers)
New Certifications in 2023:	<u>892</u>
--Basic Applications:	<u>401</u> (44% of total new certifications)
--Waiver of Training:	<u>491</u> (56% of total new certifications)

Act 120 Instructor Certification

The Commission staff administers certification of municipal police instructors authorized to provide basic and in-service instruction at certified police training schools. As noted below, there are currently 1,075 certified municipal police instructors working at 24 certified police training schools. The following data reflects instructor certification actions from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

Total Certified Academies:	<u>24</u>
Total Certified Instructors:	<u>1,075*</u>
--Certified General Instructors:	<u>912</u>
--Certified CPR/AED Instructors:	<u>107</u>
--Certified Firearms Instructors:	<u>410</u>
--Certified Physical Training Instructors:	<u>145</u>
--Certified Application of Force Instructors:	<u>208</u>
--Certified Driving/EVOC Instructors:	<u>141</u>

*This number reflects the total individual instructors. Instructors may be certified in more than one type of discipline.

New Directors Certified in 2023:	<u>4</u>
New Instructors Certified in 2023:	<u>119</u>
Amended Instructors in 2023:	<u>59</u>
Revoked Certifications in 2023:	<u>2</u>

Act 180 In-Service Training

The following data reflects in-service and CLEE courses developed and/or approved by the Commission from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

MPOETC Courses Developed in 2023:	<u>4</u>	
Instructors Trained in 2023:	<u>127</u>	
--23-201 Legal Updates: (111 Certified Instructors Trained)		<u>3</u> hours (<i>Required Course</i>)
--23-301 Tactical Communications (112 Certified Instructors Trained)		<u>3</u> hours (<i>Required Course</i>)
--23-401 Criminal Investigations (109 Certified Instructors Trained)		<u>3</u> hours (<i>Required Course</i>)
--23-501 Officer Wellness (111 Certified Instructors Trained)		<u>3</u> hours (<i>Required Course</i>)
Total Elective CLEE Courses:	<u>606</u>	

Act 235 Lethal Weapons

The following data reflects Lethal Weapons (LW) training activity from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

Total Certified Agents: 16,194

Certifications Issued in 2023: 3,730

--Initial Certifications: 1,961

--Renewals: 1,769

Certifications Revoked in 2023: 29

Total Certified Schools: 21

Total Certified Instructors: 1,293*

--Academic Instructors: 710

--Skills Instructors: 331

--Firearms Instructors: 823

New Instructors Certified in 2023: 16

* This number reflects the total individual instructors. Instructors may be certified in more than one type of discipline.

Act 57 Law Enforcement Officer Database

The following data reflects the activities related to the Law Enforcement Officer Database from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Law enforcement agencies who employ law enforcement officers provide preliminary information about the officers employed by the agency. When an officer separates from an agency, the agency submits a Separation Record to MPOETC. When an agency hires a new officer, the agency requests Separation Records from MPOETC and then provides a Hiring Report, if one is required. In 2023, there were 1,178 law enforcement agencies employing 36,414 law enforcement officers in the database.

Total Participating Law Enforcement Agencies:	<u>1.178</u>
Total Law Enforcement Officers:	<u>36.414</u>
Separation Records Submitted:	<u>3.175</u>
Requests for Separation Records:	<u>3.502</u>
Hiring Reports Submitted:	<u>8</u>

Act 79 Retired Law Enforcement Officer Identification

The Commission staff completed the following activities related to the RLEIA program from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Trained Firearms Instructors requesting recognition as Certified Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, as defined in Federal and State statutes, may submit an application to the Commission staff for approval. Those who wish to conduct qualifications for retired officers under the RLEIA program can elect to have their contact information posted on the Commission's website. There are currently 3,141 Certified Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors who have elected to participate as firearms instructors for retired officers. In 2023, these instructors issued 5,187 qualification cards purchased from the Commission.

RLEIA Instructors: **3,141**

Cards Issued: **5,187**

Officers are given a qualification card upon completion of the firearm qualification course and must present the card to their County Sheriff's Office for a background check. Upon completing the background check, the Sheriff's Office annotates it on the qualification card and provides a log of all checks to the Commission staff. The Commission staff processed 3,705 separate Sheriff's Office logs documenting background checks of retired law enforcement officers.

Sheriff's Logs Received: **3,705**

Commission Membership

Colonel Christopher L. Paris, State Police Commissioner, Chairperson

William C. Barrett, City Official (Wilkes-Barre)

Richard M. Bosco, Chief, Latrobe Borough Police Department (Westmoreland County)

Jason D. Brinker, Non-Commissioned Police Officer, Harrisburg Police Department

Dr. Bart E. Burne, Educator (West Side Career and Technical Center)

Anthony C. Clements, Non-Commissioned Police Officer, Derry Township Police Department

Vincent J. DiCenzo, Jr., Fraternal Order of Police

Barry J. Jozwiak, Representative

John Kitzinger, Represents Attorney General

Yvonne J. Lemelle, PA Department of Community & Economic Development
(Resigned: Madra L. Clay, PA Department of Community & Economic Development, July 2023)

Altovise I. Love-Craighead, Chief Inspector, City of Philadelphia

Kevin F. Mahoney, Certified School Director (Lackawanna College Police Academy)
(Resigned: Patricia B. Dombrowsky, Certified School Director (HACC Police Academy), June 2023)

Richard L. Mendez, Chief, Lancaster City Police Department (Lancaster County)

Corey B. Meyer, Township Official of the Second Class (East Lampeter Township)

Steven J. Plaughner, Borough Official (Chester County)
(Vice: Joseph M. Pizano, Borough Official (Exeter))

Mike R. Regan, Senator

Guy A. Salerno, Chief, Blakely Borough Police Department (Lackawanna County)

Samuel M. Sanguedolce, Esq., District Attorney (Luzerne County)
(Vice: Richard W. Long, Esq., Public at Large (Cumberland County))

Donald E. Sedlacek, Chief, Hopewell Township Police Department (Beaver County)

Vacant: Township Official of the First Class
(Resigned: Kristen L. Denne, Township Official of the First Class (Upper Darby Township), resigned May 2023)

Commission Committee Assignments

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Guy A. Salerno (CHAIR)
William C. Barrett
Richard M. Bosco
Joseph M. Pizano*

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Bart E. Burne (CHAIR)
Richard M. Bosco
Jason D. Brinker
Patricia B. Dombrowsky*
Guy A. Salerno
Donald E. Sedlacek

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bart E. Burne (CHAIR)
Colonel Christopher L. Paris
Jason D. Brinker
Madra L. Clay*
Kristen L. Denne*
Patricia B. Dombrowsky*
Barry J. Jozwiak
John Kitzinger
Altovise I. Love-Craighead
Richard W. Long*
Guy A. Salerno

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Barry J. Jozwiak (CHAIR)
Madra L. Clay*
Yvonne J. Lemelle**
Corey B. Meyer
Guy A. Salerno

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

John Kitzinger (CHAIR)
Richard W. Long (CHAIR)*
Barry J. Jozwiak
Kevin F. Mahoney**
Donald E. Sedlacek

RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Jason D. Brinker (CHAIR)
Kristen L. Denne (CHAIR)*
Bart E. Burne
Anthony C. Clements
Vincent J. DiCenzo, Jr.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Altovise I. Love-Craighead (CHAIR)
Patricia B. Dombrowsky (CHAIR)*
William C. Barrett
Anthony C. Clements
Kevin F. Mahoney**
Guy A. Salerno
Donald E. Sedlacek

*Resigned/Vice from Commission in 2023

** Joined Commission in 2023

Commission Staff Positions

- (1) Executive Director (PSP Major)
- (1) Assistant Director (PSP Lieutenant)
- (1) Professional Standards Investigator (PSP Corporal)
- (3) Administrative Officers
- (4) Administrative Assistants
- (3) Clerical Assistants
- (1) Police Training Curriculum Specialist
- (5) Police Training Education Specialists
- (1) Attorney to the Commission (PSP Attorney)

Certified (Act 120) Police Training Academies

Allegheny County Police Training Academy

Allison Park, PA 15101

Lieutenant Brett Whittenberger, Director

Community College of Beaver County

Monaca, PA 15061

William J. Petures, Director

Delaware County Community College

Media, PA 19063

William C. Davis, Director

Gerald M. Monahan, Sr. Police Academy

Allentown, PA 18103

Captain Christopher Diehl, Director

Harrisburg Area Community College

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Kristal Turner-Childs, Interim Director

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)

Indiana, PA 15705

Marcia Cole, Director

IUP California University

California, PA 15419

Marcia Cole, Director

IUP Robert Morris University

Moon, PA 15108

Marcia Cole, Director

Lackawanna College at Hazleton

Hazleton, PA 18201

Kevin F. Mahoney, Director

Lackawanna College at Scranton

Scranton, PA 18509

Kevin F. Mahoney, Director

Mansfield University

Mansfield, PA 16933

Christopher Wheeler, Director

Mercyhurst University

North East, PA 16428

Walter W. Hale, Director

Montgomery County Community College

Blue Bell, PA 19422

Georgette Hill, Director

Pennsylvania Highlands Police Academy
Johnstown, PA 15904
Dennis Miller, Director

Philadelphia Police Department Recruit Training Division*
Philadelphia, PA 19136
Captain Stephen Clark, Director

Pittsburgh Police Training Academy**
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Lieutenant William Fleske, Director

Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Academy**
Hershey, PA 17033
Major William W. Cawley, Director

PSP Northeast Training Center**
Forty-Fort, PA 18704
Major William W. Cawley, Director

PSP Northwest Training Center**
Meadville, PA 16335
Major William W. Cawley, Director

PSP Southeast Training Center**
Schwenksville, PA 19473
Major William W. Cawley, Director

PSP Southwest Training Center**
Greensburg, PA 15601
Major William W. Cawley, Director

Reading Police Academy
Reading, PA 19601
Lieutenant Brett Sneeringer, Director

Temple University
Ambler, PA 19002
Jeffrey Nowak, Director

Westmoreland County Community College
Youngwood, PA 15697
Franklin R. Newill III, Director

* Academies only accept hired students.

** Academies did not offer basic municipal police officer training in 2023.