

Legislative Prep Worksheet – Dept. of Public Safety

1. Pro-active

§ **Transfer of E911 Board to DPS** – wouldn't be seamless, but also won't cost a lot of money, does trigger the DPS turning into an Agency question (see below)

§ **Vermont Forensic Laboratory**

- Depends on legalization of marijuana – will need to expand drugged driving capability if marijuana is legalized
- \$ comes from Highway Safety
- Looking at a lot of costs - \$1.2 or \$1.3 million just to revamp fingerprinting needs
- Already cutting budget because of loss of transportation funds that they rely on

§ **Legalization of Marijuana (ONLY IF recommended by Rand Study/administration)**

- DPS will take a big lead in this, and they expect to. Here are some issues and some needs from DPS if this happens
 - Large camp against legalization, mostly sheriffs and law enforcement (George Merkel) will need to shift the conversation from “absolutely no” to “what will we need to put in place if this actually goes through.”
 - Need to show the positive results from decrim
 - Border Issues, will need to enhance border patrol
 - What happens to dispensaries? They are closely regulated currently and the Patient Alliance Group will work to ensure they stay in use
 - Authority to regulate – DPS or DLC?
 - Wipes out VT canine training program, dogs are trained on all drugs, won't be able to differentiate
 - Are federal grants at risk that require drug-free work place and staff?
 - 15 additional troopers will be needed
 - Updates to lab for drugged driving, TCH content regulation etc
 - Will need to double the size of the task force (12 people)
- **Statewide Policy for Militarized Vehicles**
 - State Police currently has a policy for training and deploying militarized equipment
 - Anticipate major discussion in legislature this year
 - Best step forward is to make DPS policy the State policy
- **Sex Offender Registry Audit Findings**
 - Changes will be needed
 - Gets hazy with regard to out-of-staters
 - Will need to work with Judiciary on this
 - General misunderstandings about the registry – DPS only performs clerical function, judges and Dept of Corrections makes decisions

2. Defensive

- Body cams? DPS thinks we will move to body cams in the future, but not right now
- DPS turning into Agency?
 - Donna Sweeney always tries to push this conversation, and it will come up if E911 Board moves to DPS, begs question of why not Dept. of Corrections in DPS, too?
 - It is suggested in a 2008 Study of Policy Strategies
 - IF we did something like this, should follow VTrans organization model with a Dept. of Police and then a series of divisions (Keith and crew seemed interested in this possibility for what it's worth)

3. House-Keeping/Neutral

- Electrical Installations
- Dispatch fees – DPS will be making recommendation on funding
- Electrical installations – may need tweak regarding solar panels and fire boxes in single family residences. DPS is working with VTC on program to license people on solar/fire safety work.
- Dispensaries – Enforcement Gradients
 - Right now it's either all or nothing for enforcement, need ability to suspend or revoke license etc

4. Interagency

- State Warning Point – Vtrans, Emergency Planning, VY
- Proposed energy efficiency rules – PSD
 - Lots of pushback on rules
 - People want fire safety to take over enforcement
 - Lots of misunderstanding/ignorance of rules

5. Questions

- FYI – DPS still feeling the loss of 9 position and reduction to their base
- There is an empty building right next to DPS in Waterbury - they wonder why isn't Fire Safety or another Dept. moving in? Fire Safety is currently paying lease where they are, could they save that money by moving in next door?