

CONFIDENTIAL
LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016

Bill Number: H.130 Name of Bill: H.130

Agency/Dept: DPS/VSP Author of Bill Capt. James Whitcomb
Review: _____

Date of Bill Review: 05-25-16 Related Bills and Key Players: _____

Status of Bill: (check one)

 Upon Introduction As passed by 1st body X As passed by both bodies

Recommended Position:

 X Support Oppose Remain Neutral Support with modifications identified in # 8 below

Analysis of Bill

1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses. *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.*

An act relating to Law enforcement, 911 call taking, dispatch, and training safety.

-Law Enforcement Officer Regulation; Study Committee Report: There is created a Law Enforcement Officer Regulation Study Committee to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding law enforcement officer regulation

-Dispatch; Working Group: Working group shall be formed to study and make recommendations

A. The most efficient, reliable, and cost-effective means for providing statewide call-taking operations for Vermont's 911 system; and..

B. The manner in which dispatch services and currently provided and funded, including funding disparity, and whether there should be any changes to this structure.

-Statewide Policy; Electronic Control Devices; Reporting:

-Aggravated Cruelty to Animals

2. Is there a need for this bill?

Yes, as detailed below H.130 has been passed by both bodies and comments are presented below.

3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?

-Law Enforcement Officer Regulation; Study Committee Report: There is created a Law Enforcement Officer Regulation Study Committee to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding law enforcement officer regulation

The VSP has a seat on the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC) and supports the ongoing dialogue related to tiered law enforcement certification. All full-time VSP members are fully certified members who complete the full-time certification course. Only our Auxiliary Troopers would be impacted by changes in the requirement to be certified at a higher level and the organization supports this broader based training for those members.

-Dispatch; Working Group: Working group shall be formed to study and make recommendations

A. The most efficient, reliable, and cost-effective means for providing statewide call-taking operations for Vermont's 911 system; and..

B. The manner in which dispatch services and currently provided and funded, including funding disparity, and whether there should be any changes to this structure.

The Vermont State Police supports this bill. Our two dispatch centers (Williston/Rockingham) currently dispatch for 10 State Police Barracks, 33 law enforcement agencies (Local Police Departments/Sheriffs), 50 fire departments, 25 EMS (Emergency Medical Service) departments, 24 constabularies, and 6 other state agencies. Outside of state government, we essentially provide dispatching services to 108 agencies and 24 constabularies.

Of the 132 outside agencies/constabularies, only 5 are paying for dispatching services, they are as follows:

Lyndonville Police Department- \$7550 annually

Thetford Police Department- \$7600 annually

Swanton Police Department- \$5600 annually

Warren Fire Department- \$3500 annually

White River Valley Ambulance- \$2000 annually

The Vermont State Police receives a total of \$26,250 annually from outside agencies (not including E-911). Agencies that receive dispatching elsewhere are paying for it. We are very much interested in studying the inequity of the current system and moving these non-state agencies to regional dispatching centers. This will also provide us the ability to reduce the work load on our two centers and become more efficient.

The Vermont State Police currently handles approximately 72 percent of Vermont's E911 calls. We currently have 16 E911 seats and receive \$720,000.00 (45K per seat) each year to support those positions. We are interested in further study in this area to identify if there is a better way to distribute call volume and also look at the equity in payment from the E-911 Board. Currently it is a flat rate and a different payment model would be more equitable, such as being reimbursed per call. At this time the Vermont State Police receives approximately 68 percent of E911 call funding while taking 72 percent of the calls.

-Statewide Policy; Electronic Control Devices; Reporting:

The VSP has a seat on the Vermont Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB) and as it related to section 20 VSA 2367, Statewide Policy; Electronic Control Devices; Reporting.

The VSP has a robust existing ECD policy which was adopted prior to January 1, 2016 and feel that this is an acceptable alternative to the proposed policy. We would support the concept that the VSP policy be recognized as an alternate model policy. If required, we will certainly adjust and accommodate by adopting the statewide model policy suggested by the LEAB.

-Aggravated Cruelty to Animals

The VSP supports the added suggested language under section (3) intentionally injures or kills an animal that is in the performance of official duties while under the supervision of a law enforcement officer.

-Training Safety Subcommittee; Recommendations; Governance Committee Report

Members of the Department of Public Safety, to include both the Division of Fire Safety and the VSP testified in support of this legislation on multiple occasions. This proposed legislation supports the concept of safety at the training academes and on site at the Robert H. Wood training facility.

4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?

All Fiscal and programmatic implication of this bill are to be discussed as part of studies associated with the bill.

5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)

All Fiscal and programmatic implication of this bill are to be discussed as part of studies associated with the bill.

6. Other Stakeholders:

6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?

-Extensive study with stakeholders regarding summer study Law Enforcement Officer Regulation to explore stakeholder implications

-Extensive study with stakeholders regarding dispatch; working group: Working group shall be formed to study and make recommendations

6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?

-Items of concern regarding summer study will explore any concerns stakeholders may have with these proposals

7. Rationale for recommendation:

8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill: N/A

9. Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many?

-Law Enforcement Officer Regulation; Study Committee Report: There is created a Law Enforcement Officer Regulation Study Committee to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding law enforcement officer regulation

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word or PDF document to Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov and Jessica Mishaan@vermont.gov

-Dispatch; Working Group: Working group shall be formed to study and make recommendations

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Dudley", is written over a faint, light blue rectangular stamp.

Date: 5/26/16