



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

300 E. JOPPA ROAD • SUITE 1000 • TOWSON, MARYLAND 21286-3020
(410) 339-5000 • FAX (410) 339-4240 • TOLL FREE (877) 379-8636 • V/TTY (800) 735-2258 • www.dpscs.maryland.gov

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS FY 2021 OPERATING BUDGET

Response to Department of Legislative Services Budget Analysis

House Appropriations Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee Chairman Keith E. Haynes January 29, 2019

Learning Management System

Issue: The Department should comment on how it anticipates the results of the job task analyses as well as the new data capabilities of the Learning Management System replacement will enhance their delivery of training and use of MPTSC Fund resources.

Response: Although the job task analysis and the replacement of the Learning Management System (LMS) are not directly related, both will drastically assist in modernizing and improving the delivery of training. The goal of the job task analysis is to conduct a detailed, independent review of the entry-level training requirements for law enforcement, corrections, and community supervision professionals to ensure the requirements align with expected on-duty performance. Professions in the public safety sector have evolved significantly since the last job task analysis was conducted, which was over 25 years ago. An updated job task analysis will ensure that Maryland's Public Safety mandated positions undergo entry-level training that continues to be consistent with statutorily mandated training while meeting the needs of the current public safety professional landscape.

The replacement of the LMS will revolutionize the Police and Correctional Training Commissions' (PCTC) ability to track training and certification requirements completed by approximately 30,000 mandated police and correctional professionals in the State. PCTC's current LMS was implemented over 25 years ago and, like most technology developed over two decades ago, is nearly obsolete.

Currently, PCTC's Training Coordinators are required to enter information into their records systems, export the information, submit the exported information to PCTC's Certification Unit and PCTC staff who then imports the information into PCTC's database. This process is arduous, duplicative, and jeopardizes data integrity. A new LMS will allow for records from all agencies to be directly entered into one system managed by PCTC. Additionally, the new LMS will assist in streamlining the course registration process, improving classroom management, and increasing accuracy of data.

PCTC is utilizing funds from the MPTSC Fund for the completion of the job task analysis and the procurement and maintenance of the LMS.

Trainee Days

Issue: PCTC should discuss program enrollment trends and expenditures and provide details regarding any involvement in the relocation of the Baltimore Police Academy.

Response: PCTC expects to see a continued increase in enrollment rates due to the enhanced recruitment and hiring efforts of the Department, which will likely contribute to an increase in expenditures given the need for additional training materials. However, the relocation of the Baltimore Police Department's (BPD) Academy will not impact PCTC's enrollment trends as BPD has historically always conducted their own entry-level academies. BPD does use PCTC's Driver Training Facility, but PCTC does not anticipate a change in their utilization of this Facility since BPD's new academy site will not have a Driver Training Facility.

Driver Training Track

Issue: PCTC should update the committees on this issue, the amount of funds required to remedy the situation, and plans to enhance the Drivers Training Facility to increase capacity and ensure its longevity. The Department of Legislative Services recommends the adoption of committee narrative requesting that PCTC submit a report on the utilization and demand of PSETC training resources.

Response: PCTC is in the process of repaving and repairing its skid pad, which is an integral part of its Drivers Training Facility. Attempts were made to repair and repave the skid pad, but they were ultimately unsuccessful as large cracks appeared shortly thereafter. On October 30, 2019, the Board of Public Works unanimously approved the expenditure of funds for milling and repavement of the skidpad. This work was scheduled to be complete in November 2019; however, temperatures dropped below what is acceptable for successful asphalt application.

Repair work is scheduled for mid-March 2020 and PCTC anticipates the skid pad will become fully operational in April 2020.

PCTC and the Department's Division of Capital Construction and Facilities Maintenance are conducting a review of PCTC's facilities, to include the Driver Training Facility, in order to develop a capital improvement plan for the entire campus.

Recommended Actions:

1. Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of management studies and consultants may not be expended until the Police and Correctional Training Commissions, in consultation with the Maryland State Police, submit a report to the budget committees outlining the results of a utilization analysis of the Public Safety Education and Training Center driver training course, firearms training course, and overall classroom space. The utilization analysis shall include (1) a quantitative analysis of subscription and utilization rates of the driver training course, firearms training course, and other classrooms from the beginning of fiscal 2019 to present, broken down by audience type and instructor type; and (2) an evaluation of these results, including the identification of areas that require additional resources or strategic enhancements. The report shall be submitted by December 1, 2020, and the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment. Funds restricted pending receipt of this report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Response: The Department concurs with the recommended action.