State Policies Concerning the Hiring, Employment and Retention

of Law Enforcement Officers

Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee Nov. 8, 2017 State Capitol, Room 322

Rich Williams, Program Manager National Conference of State Legislatures



Employment Policies

- State Law
 - Minimum Standards
- State POST Office
 - New Mexico law Enforcement Academy Board
 - > § 29-7-3
- Locality & Department Regulations



Challenges & Goals

- Maintain Public Trust & Public Safety
- Maintain Appropriate Staffing Levels
- Promote Diversity
- Funding



Research

- Hiring for the 21st Century Law Enforcement
 Officer: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies for
 Success. Washington, DC: Office of Community
 Oriented Policing Services. 2017.
- Fostering Public Trust in Law Enforcement in Michigan. Lansing, MI: Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards. April 2017.
- Promising Practices for Increasing Diversity Among First Responders. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor. December 2016.



State Law Overview

- Minimum Standards
 - Citizenship
 - > Age
 - > Education
 - Criminal Records
 - Drug Testing
- State Support
 - Funding

- Hiring Process
 - Promote Diversity
 - Cadet Programs
 - Hiring Programs
- Training
 - Guardianship Policing
 - Community Policing



Minimum Standards

- Citizenship
- Age (Minimum & Maximum)
- Education
- Criminal Records
- Drug Testing



Hiring Process

- Connecticut § 7-291a
 - Diversity Hiring
- Minnesota Pathways to Policing
 - Pathway to Policing. Appropriates \$400,000 each year to reimburse police departments that offer pathway to policing programs.
 - > [H.F. 346] [S.F. 445]



Cadet Programs

- Community-Engagement
 - Law Enforcement Youth Cadet Corps (N. M. S. A. § 29-7B-4)
- Pre-Employment
 - Washington DC § 5-109.01
 - > Ohio § 124.41
 - ➤ Massachusetts 147 § 21A
 - Michigan § 38.521
 - ➤ Illinois 65 § 5/10-2.1-8
 - > Tennessee § 67-4-602

Hiring Funds

- Federal
 - COPS Hiring Program
- State
 - ➤ Maryland Public Safety § 4-501
 - > State Aid for Police Protection Fund
 - ➤ Illinois 50 § 715/2
 - Law Enforcement Salary Grant Act



Training

- Guardianship Policing
 - ➤ Washington ~ \$500,000
 - > 2016 Wash. Legis. Serv. 1st Sp. Sess. Ch. 36
- Community-Policing
 - Pilot Programs
- Certification



Questions?

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