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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

**RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- POLICE OFFICERS --
COMMISSION ON STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

Introduced By: Senators Rogers, Paolino, Appollonio, and de la Cruz

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: Senate Labor & Gaming

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-28.2-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-28.2 entitled "Police
2 Officers — Commission on Standards and Training" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-28.2-8. Establishment of standards.**

4 (a) The commission on standards and training shall prepare and publish mandatory training
5 standards, not applicable to the city of Providence, and to be promulgated with due consideration
6 to varying factors and special requirements of local police agencies, the division of enforcement of
7 the department of environmental management and the board of regents relative to:

8 (1) Minimum standards of physical, educational, mental, and moral fitness which shall
9 govern the recruitment, selection, and apportionment of police officers; provided, however, that the
10 minimum height and weight standards for local police officers shall be determined by each
11 municipality.

12 (2) The commission with the approval of the director of public safety will establish the
13 courses of training, and set rules and regulations relative to the education, physical standards, and
14 personal character of candidates and trainees.

15 (3) Minimum course of study, attendance requirements, equipment, and facilities required
16 at the municipal police training school, or other approved training schools certified pursuant to §
17 42-28.2-6.

18 (4) Minimum qualification for instructors at the municipal police training school, or other

1 approved training schools certified pursuant to § 42-28.2-6.

2 (5) Minimum basic training requirements which police officers appointed to probationary
3 terms shall complete before being eligible for continued or permanent employment, and the term
4 within which that basic training must be completed following such appointment to a probationary
5 term.

6 (6) Minimum basic training requirements which police officers not appointed for
7 probationary terms but appointed on other than a permanent basis shall complete before being
8 eligible for continued employment.

9 (7) Categories or classifications of advanced in-service training programs and minimum
10 courses of study and attendance requirements for those categories or classifications.

11 (8) The establishment of subordinate regional training centers in strategic geographic
12 locations in order to serve the greatest number of local police agencies that are unable to support
13 their own training programs.

14 (b) The commission shall establish a schedule of sessions of the school, of which there
15 shall be a minimum of one session per year.

16 (c) The commission shall authorize the establishment of police training schools by any
17 municipality that demonstrates that it can satisfactorily meet the minimum standards established
18 for police training schools.

19 (d) The commission shall establish an equivalency of training certification program within
20 the municipal police training academy which allows for the certification of any candidate subject
21 to its oversight. Such certification shall apply to any candidate who:

22 (1) Has worked at least one year, full-time as a sworn law enforcement officer;
23 (2) Has received training which is comparable to the standards as set forth in subsection
24 (a) of this section; and

25 (3) Has no more than an eight (8) year break-in-service since the candidate's last separation
26 from a sworn law enforcement position.

27 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- POLICE OFFICERS --
COMMISSION ON STANDARDS AND TRAINING

- 1 This act would establish an equivalent training certification program at the municipal
- 2 police academy which allows certification of any candidate who has worked at least one year, full-
- 3 time as a sworn law enforcement officer, and has met certain other requirements.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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