

# FISCAL NOTE

**Bill #:** SB0041

**Title:** Require certification of public safety communications officers

**Primary Sponsor:** Glenn Roush

**Status:** Third Reading - Revised

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Sponsor signature	Date	Chuck Swysgood, Budget Director	Date
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## Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>	<u>FY2003 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
General Fund	6,600	6,600
<b>Revenue:</b>		
General Fund	6,600	6,600
<b>Net Impact on General Fund Balance:</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>0</b>

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<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	X	Significant Local Gov. Impact		X	Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts
	X	Dedicated Revenue Form Attached		X	Family Impact Form Attached

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## Fiscal Analysis

### ASSUMPTIONS:

#### **Department of Justice**

1. Since the early 1990s, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy has complied with the original requirements of MCA 7-31-201 to - 203 by conducting a basic course for public safety communications officers. As currently certified by the Montana Board of Crime Control, this basic course is 40 hours in length. Approximately 60 public safety communications officers are now trained annually at the academy within three sessions of the basic course. The course is conducted in accordance with training recommendations routinely made by the Montana APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications

Officials) Chapter. The APCO chapter also supports the training by recommending and preparing contract instructors. Tuition collected from students offsets state costs for the instructors, course materials, and meals/lodging for students and contracted staff. The current student tuition is \$165 per trainee. The academy is currently allocated \$9,000 annually in general fund for the purpose of conducting training for public safety communications officers which is fully offset by the revenue collected as tuition.

2. Because 7-31-201 to – 203, MCA, originally established an expectation of a minimum standard of performance for public safety communications officers employed by local governments, there is already substantial voluntary compliance with the terms of this statute.
3. If any local government is not currently complying with 7-31-201 to – 203, MCA, it is required to send trainees to future sessions of the academy basic course, Academy attendance rates could increase. Using existing resources, the academy could add training space for up to four additional trainees per session and adjust the current annual schedule of classes to add one additional session per year. This would allow up to 40 additional trainees annually to attend the basic course without the addition of facilities or FTE. These adjustments would require that the general fund budget for the academy be increased by \$6,600 (40 students times \$165 tuition), but tuition would be collected in an equal amount and the net effect upon the general fund will be zero.
4. If attendance were to increase beyond 40 trainees annually, the academy could meet the training need by cooperating with the Montana APCO chapter to conduct board approved sessions of the basic course regionally within local communities whenever there are enough trainees to warrant a class.
5. There will be insubstantial impacts to local governments, specifically tuition, salary and travel costs for attendees who are newly hired by local government agencies not already in voluntary compliance with 7-31-201 to – 203, MCA.
6. There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Corrections.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>	<u>FY2003 Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating Expenses	6,600	6,600
<u>Funding:</u>		
General Fund (01)	6,600	6,600
<u>Revenues:</u>		
General Fund (01)	6,600	6,600
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>		
General Fund (01)	-0-	-0-

#### EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

As most already do, local governments will be required to send public safety communications officer trainees to the board approved basic course conducted by the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. Local governments pay tuition (which covers course costs, lodging and meals), the salary of the officer attending training, and travel to and from the academy in Helena, at a total cost of approximately \$1,000 for each new public safety communications officer who is hired.