



Memorandum

DCI

To: Law and Justice Interim Committee
From: Bryan Lockerby, Administrator
CC: Perry Johnson, POST Bureau Chief; Tony Harbaugh, POST Council Chairman
Date: 3/17/2020
Re: March 2020 status update regarding POST per MCA 2-15-2029

The 2019 Montana legislature passed HB684 which merged Public Safety Officers Standards and Training (POST) with the Montana Department of Justice, under the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). The bill added POST as a Bureau to DCI with a two-year sunset and required regular updates to the Law and Justice Interim Committee.

Part of the extensive upgrade to MLEA facilities includes a dry storage building to keep documents and records safe for a number of DOJ Divisions. The building was recently completed, and the movement of records was implemented. POST had multiple hard copy records that were transferred to the campus facility which will keep them safe and easier to access.

DOJ Legal and CSD staff have been supporting DCI's efforts to find internal legal resources that can support POST needs and bifurcate the conflicting role of Council to the Counsel vs. an attorney who handles contested cases. Qualified legal staff was identified through a potential partnership with the Gambling Control Division to achieve this goal. By this reporting time, it is still conceptual in nature, but steps are underway for a test implementation.

DOJ EPP is underway and respective Divisions within DCI are currently drafting requests for consideration. One of the requests is a partnership between MLEA and POST for a software tracking system that will follow an officer from the start of their career to termination or retirement. As officers are hired by agencies, receive continued training, added certifications, possibly switch careers between law enforcement agencies, the software tracks the officer and keeps the links unbroken. Currently, disparate systems do not complement each other and create gaps in the officer's career. A shared system would create increased efficiency in tracking.