



**Montana Public Safety Officer Standards & Training Council**

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## Memorandum

To: Law and Justice Interim Committee

From: Jesse Slaughter, POST Council Chair

CC: Eric Gilbertson, POST Bureau Chief

Date: 12/15/2021

Re: January 2022 status update from POST Council per MCA § 2-15-2029(3)

The Public Safety Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council has been busy. We conducted three full-Council meeting in 2021, and have planned four full-Council meetings for 2022 to keep up with the workload, including contested case arguments and administrative rule changes. This is in addition to numerous committee meetings. The Council appreciates the assistance of the POST Bureau as we undertake our mission. The Council, in collaboration with DOJ, recently hired Eric Gilbertson as the new POST Director. The Council also recently contracted with J. Stuart Segrest to serve as general counsel and special master during contested case arguments.

The Council, at its December meeting, voted to move forward with requesting two legislative changes to MCA § 44-4-403. The first would add specific authority for the POST Council to extend the one-year period for completion of training by up to 180 days for all public safety officers. Currently, the statutes detailing training requirements for some officers, such as detention officers, are silent as to extensions. This change is necessary to match POST's current practice and rule and to treat all public safety officers equally.

The second legislative change the Council plans to pursue would delay the one-year period to attend training during the time a public safety officer is ordered to military duty. The officer's period to attend training will resume once POST is notified of the officer's return to the employing agency. This change will allow the employing agency to fulfill its

duty under federal law (USERRA) to maintain the employee's job during military deployment.

The Council plans to request two bill numbers for these two changes due to the somewhat different subjects addressed, despite that fact that both changes would amend the same statute (MCA § 44-4-403). The Council will seek a bill sponsor (or sponsors) for these changes and welcomes the Interim Committee's assistance or input in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesse Slaughter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jesse Slaughter  
POST Council Chair