



Montana Public Safety Officer Standards and 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: March 16, 2022
Re: March 2022 status update from POST Council per MCA § 2-15-2029(3)

The Montana Public Safety Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council continues to be busy. The full Council met in February. At the February meeting, the Council voted to begin the process of updating several of its administrative rules. These changes will benefit the law enforcement community by providing clarity regarding POST's process and its high standards for public safety officers in Montana.

On February 8th, 2022 Governor Gianforte appointed three new members to the Council to fill existing vacancies and bring its membership up to a full 13. Specifically, Governor Gianforte appointed the following members to the POST Council: **Jim Anderson**, Department of Corrections Public Safety Chief, to represent DOC; **Mark Kraft**, Sidney Police Department Police Chief, to represent the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police (MACOP); and **Mike McCarthy**, Citizen At-Large, who was previously employed by the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. Additionally, POST's previous contested case counsel Mike Fanning recently transitioned to a new position in Elder Justice; POST is now working with Michelle Dietrich from ALSB as contested case counsel.

As with the recent statewide increase of people moving to Montana from another state, POST staff has noticed a sharp increase in the number of equivalency requests made to POST. Equivalency may be requested by an appointing authority if they appoint a peace officer or detention/correction officer who was certified in another state. In 2020 POST approved only 37 requests for equivalency. In contrast, POST approved 89 requests for equivalency in 2021. As of March 15, POST has so far received 32 equivalency requests for 2022. Each application is evaluated by POST staff to determine if the appointee should be permitted to attend Montana's shortened equivalency course for certification.

Sincerely,

Jesse Slaughter
POST Council Chair