



Memorandum

DCI

To: Law and Justice Interim Committee

From: Bryan Lockerby, Administrator

cc: Len DeClercq, Interim POST Bureau Chief; Jesse Slaughter, POST Council Chairman

Date: 8/24/2022

Re: August 2022 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. Subsequently, during the 2021 legislative session, HB 693 extended the sunset an additional two years and included the same reporting requirements.

Since the last report was drafted, the POST Director submitted a resignation letter, departing POST on August 5, 2022. The Department of Justice, with concurrence from the POST Council Chairman, placed Len DeClercq, an agent from the Gambling Division, into the interim position. Agent DeClercq is the former Wyoming POST Executive Director, so the transition was seamless, creating no gaps in service or unnecessary delays.

The POST Executive Director position was advertised nationally and following screenings, a short-list of applicants was interviewed. By consensus of the hiring panel, a top candidate was identified and is currently undergoing an extensive background investigation by the Division of Criminal Investigation. A hiring date of mid-September is anticipated.

A long-serving employee of POST also retired end of July. The retiring staff member provided sufficient advance notice to hire a replacement administrative support position who could be trained and mentored by the departing employee.

POST submitted recommended bill draft proposals to the interim committee for 2023. These were individual revisions to 44-4-404; one for 180-day extension authority, the other related to military activation by an officer hired in their first year.