



Memorandum

DCI

To: Law and Justice Interim Committee
From: Bryan Lockerby, Administrator
cc: Eric Gilbertson, POST Bureau Chief; Jesse Slaughter, POST Council Chairman
Date: 6/23/2022
Re: June 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.

Because the POST Bureau Chief and Chairman of POST testified on May 9th to the Law & Justice Interim Committee in-person, no written update was submitted. Since that time DOJ has been providing support assistance to POST staff with the human resource hiring process for a replacement of one of the key administrative support members. Within the last week, the top candidate was identified and is undergoing a background investigation. The goal is to hire the subject prior to the staff member's retirement for training purposes.

DCI was able to provide additional fiscal support to POST with needed office supplies and equipment. Legal fees for hearings, cases, and public records requests have impacted POST's spending authority for the fiscal year. DCI was able to provide additional funding for POST.

POST will be submitting recommended bill draft proposals to the interim committee for 2023. These are 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.