



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 4/11/2017

Bill Number

Senate Bill 17-066

Sponsors

***Senators Cooke & Fields
Representatives Saine &
Lebsock***

Short Title

***Municipal Authority To Employ
Police***

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor and became effective April 4, 2017.

Background

Colorado law imposes standards on and grants certain responsibilities to persons considered peace officers. At a minimum, a peace officer has the authority to enforce all laws of the state of Colorado while acting within the scope of his or her authority and the performance of his or her duties.

Prior to seeking authorization from the General Assembly to grant peace officer status, a group or person must apply for sunrise review by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Board. A proposal for review must contain the following information:

- a complete description of the position or a description of the group proposed for peace officer status and an estimate of the number of persons who hold the position or are in the group;
- a description of the specific need for the authority and protections required for the position or group;
- the benefit to the public that would result from granting the status;
- the costs associated with granting the status; and
- a resolution or letter of support for the proposed change in status from the chief executive officer of the unit of government or political subdivision employing the group or overseeing the proposed position.

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After receiving an application, the P.O.S.T. Board must conduct a hearing, and must then submit a report containing its recommendations to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees no later than October 15 in the year after the application was submitted.

In addition to the sunrise review process that all groups must complete prior to achieving peace officer status, peace officers may also be certified by the P.O.S.T. Board. A peace officer certified by the P.O.S.T. Board has the authority to carry firearms at all times, concealed or otherwise, subject to the written firearms policy created by the agency employing the peace officer. A peace officer who is not certified by the P.O.S.T. Board has the authority to carry firearms, concealed or otherwise, while engaged in the performance of his or her duties or as otherwise authorized by the written policy of the agency employing the officer.

Senate Action

Senate Judiciary Committee (February 6, 2017). At the hearing, the committee heard testimony in favor of the bill from representatives of Hudson, Colorado; the Colorado Municipal League; and the P.O.S.T. Board. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole with a recommendation that it be placed on the consent calendar.

Senate second reading (February 9, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on second reading.

Senate third reading (February 10, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House Local Government Committee (March 1, 2017). The committee heard testimony in support of the bill from representatives of the town of Hudson, Colorado, and the Colorado Municipal League. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (March 6, 2017). The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (March 7, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Relevant Research

Legislative Council Staff, *Peace Officer Status in Colorado*, Issue Brief, February 2016: <http://leg.colorado.gov/publications/peace-officer-status-colorado>.