
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6873 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT REQUIRING THE POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND PROMULGATE A MODEL POLICY REQUIRING THE USE OF A SEAT SAFETY BELT FOR ANY PERSON WHO IS BEING TRANSPORTED IN A MUNICIPAL POLICE VEHICLE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), by December 31, 2023, to develop and promulgate a model policy that has guidelines on required seat belt use in municipal police vehicles and standardized procedures for municipal police officers to ensure that anyone being transported in their vehicles is secured by a seat belt. By April 1, 2024, each municipal law enforcement unit must adopt and maintain a written policy that meets or exceeds these model policy standards.

Under the bill, starting on that same date, if a municipal law enforcement unit's chief law enforcement officer finds, through existing POST-developed procedures, that a municipal police officer's actions violate the adopted seat belt policy and the violation undermines public confidence in the municipal law enforcement unit, then the chief law enforcement officer must report the violation to POST, which must then do a de novo review (a new, independent review) of the matter.

Whenever POST believes there is a reasonable basis for suspending, canceling, or revoking a municipal officer's certification because of the reported violation, the council must give the officer notice and an adequate opportunity for a hearing before he or she is disciplined. The hearing must be done following the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act. If POST finds by clear and convincing evidence that a violation of the bill has occurred, it may suspend, revoke, or cancel the officer's certificate.

*House Amendment "A" (1) delays the applicability of the seat belt policy requirements from January 1 to April 1, 2024, and (2) requires each municipal law enforcement unit to adopt and maintain a written policy by that same date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/31/2023)