

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 5023 (LCO 512)

AN ACT CONCERNING ARREST POWERS OF LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS AND MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS.

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes sworn members of local police departments to make warrantless arrests outside their jurisdictions. These officers can arrest any person for any offense if they are in uniform and either (1) observe or apprehend the suspect in the act of committing the crime or (2) receive “speedy information” about an incident from others. Once apprehended, they must immediately present the arrestee to the local police department or state police barracks having jurisdiction over the precinct where the arrest was made. This differs from existing law, unchanged by the bill that allows arresting officers making out-of-jurisdiction arrests based on immediate pursuit of the suspect to return him or her to the precinct where the offense was committed.

The bill also adds Motor Vehicles Department “motor vehicle inspectors” who have been trained and certified by the Police Officers’ Standards and Training Council to the definition of “peace officers” in the state’s penal code. They already possess the same powers as peace officers when performing specified motor-vehicle-related duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012