

Legislative Program Review and Investigation Committee

Connecticut General Assembly

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SCOPE OF STUDY

Connecticut State Police Staffing Standards

FOCUS

The study will develop standards to recommend for use by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner in determining the proposed level of staffing for the Division of State Police for the 2014-2015 biennial budget. The study will examine various factors required by Public Act 12-1 (June 12 SS)¹ in developing such standards, as well as any other relevant information identified during the study.

BACKGROUND

Section 243 of P.A. 12-1 requires PRI to conduct this study on state police staffing standards. The same section deletes the statutory minimum number of 1,248 sworn state police personnel the DESPP commissioner "shall appoint and maintain," replacing the number with the phrase "sufficient number of." Beginning July 1, 2013, the commissioner is required to "appoint and maintain a sufficient number of sworn state police personnel to efficiently maintain the operation of the division as determined by the commissioner in accordance with the recommended standards developed" via the PRI study.

In 1903, the Connecticut State Police Department was established under a board of commissioners, which was required to appoint five state police officers and an additional five officers as the board saw fit. From 1903 through 1972, statutory provisions for state police staffing levels were increased 18 times.² In 1973, the statutory staffing levels were eliminated, but re-instituted in 1998 after a 25-year period of no state trooper level requirement.³ P.A. 98-151 set the staffing minimum number of state police officers to 1,248, a number that has rarely been met.

¹ June 12 Special Session, Public Act No. 12-1, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2012.

² "History of State Police Staffing Statute," OLR Research Report (2012-R-0112), February 16, 2012.

³ The law has always specified the staffing level for the force, except for 1973-1998, when it authorized the appointment of an "adequate number" to "efficiently maintain the operation of the division in keeping with budgetary allowances" (source: OLR (2012-R-0112)).

AREAS OF ANALYSIS

- Describe the major roles and responsibilities of Connecticut state police
- Review relevant literature for police staffing best practices, other research studies, and recommendations by accrediting bodies and professional associations
- Assess technological improvements that have occurred and their potential impact on state police staffing
- Identify any relevant federal mandates or funding requirements
- Analyze trends in rates and types of criminal activity for their association with state police staffing levels
- Examine trends in the staffing of state police patrol positions
 - associated trends in number of calls for service and response times
 - use of overtime
- Assess which state police division responsibilities require sworn officers as opposed to civilian employees, with consideration of public and police safety
- Changes in municipal police policy and staffing that impact state police resources

STUDY COMPLETION DATE

P.A. 12-1 requires PRI to report its recommended standards to the Public Safety Committee by January 9, 2013. Given the complexities of the study charge, and the PRI final study review and approval process, this time frame is challenging, but PRI is aware the recommendations are desired for the 2014-2015 biennial budget. With the assumption that PRI will have full access to data it deems necessary from DESPP in a timely manner pursuant to PRI authority, the committee will make every effort within the available study resources to meet the January 9, 2013, deadline, and no later than March 1, 2013, for final completion.