

**MINUTES OF THE
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS
AND TRAINING BOARD
Legislative Review Committee
Teams Online
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
August 20, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Travis Stefonowicz
Evan Savageau
Steve Armstrong

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Stromberg

OTHERS PRESENT

Joe Arenz

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Pat Helfrich Executive Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee meeting on legislative review started at 1:01 PM

This meeting is to discuss changes to 12-63 for legislative changes for 2027 legislation.

Lt. Savageau updated the committee on how to move forward with training funds with the proposed Governor cuts which effects the POST Boards legislative paid funds of \$225,000.00.

Lt. Savageau advised the committee that originally the POST Board received training funds of \$400,000.00 per biennium back in 2005. Over the years it's been cut and at one-point funds were at \$170,000.00. Secretary Stanley appeared before the legislature and did get funding back to \$225,000.00 where it is today minus the proposed cuts which will take us to \$202,500.00 if the Governor does the 10% cut.

Lt. Savageau added that with the cap put on by legislators last session, is now beginning to affect agencies across the state and that agencies will not be able to send officers out of state as they did before. With this cap the committee feels that asking for \$400,000.00 per biennium

is necessary with the 75 hour training requirement going into effect in 2027 if approved by the Administrative Rules Board.

Lt. Savageau stated that placing the funds in a special fund versus putting it in a general fund would be the preferred way and that a new special fund would have to be created as he won't be able to use their current special fund do to how the money comes in for their current special fund. If the legislators don't approve the \$400,000.00 and we request restorative funds again we need to get those funds into a special fund and out of general fund as it will affect the NDHP's budget.

Testifying before legislation will have to be another board member as Lt. Savageau is with the NDHP and the conflict there. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised that if the chairman is unavailable or if Lt. Savageau is selected can't then the Executive Secretary can testify. Since SA Joe Arenz will be taking over for Secretary Helfrich next year it will be Arenz to testify if no board member can.

12-63-01.1 The committee talked about term limits to the POST Board. Currently a member serves 3 two-year terms. With the new Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's obtaining Board members with the experience and knowledge is getting more difficult. The first years they are learning their new roles as Chief's and Sheriff's and increasing term limits for POST Board members will ensure that they get those extra years before being recruited to serve on the POST Board. Discussion was 3 four-year terms or 2 five-year terms.

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the committee that CA Casey Miller did advise AG Wrigley and the Asst. AG Ness, of the idea to request funding through gaming. We don't want the AG blindsided and felt that explaining that we wanted to be sure we have a good plan before approaching him or a legislator. AG Wrigley was appreciative of us notifying him of what the POST Board is considering and why.

Discussion on the POST Board and NDIRF combining to provide online training through Lexipol is still in the works. Since POST can spend \$50,000 per year on training. This would be in addition to the funding being sought through gaming and legislation and would not be paid out of the monies from legislation but from POST only.

Discussion on 12-63-13 where if contact can't be made by mail or in person to a peace officer for adverse action that it be posted in the newspaper of the area where he last resided in. Can this be posted online on the POST website as there is decline on subscriptions to newspapers. Committee wants an opinion on if this is possible or if the newspaper is a mandated way. Secretary Helfrich will email POST attorney Ensrud for an opinion. It's written in the code as follows: If service cannot be made by personal service or registered mail, then service may be made by publication in the County of residence specified by the person in the person's last communication with the board.

Discussion of 12-44.1-04(4) The Board must approve the basic training course for correctional officers. Since the POST Board does not license correctional officers, or maintain their training records, the approval of a correctional officer basic should go to the DOCR and not POST, since POST has no interaction with them beyond the approval of the basic course.

Meeting stopped at 1:25 PM