

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Special Session I Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB5005

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Norment

3. Committee: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

4. Title: Criminal justice training academies; adds to the powers and duties of DCJS regarding academies.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation adds to the powers and duties of the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) regarding the oversight and evaluation of criminal justice training academies approved by the Department. The proposed legislation requires (1) DCJS to provide direct assistance to academies that are not meeting minimum standards and objectives; (2) requires each academy to submit reports regarding compliance with minimum standards to DCJS, the Senate Appropriations Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Crime Commission; and (3) requires DCJS to provide an annual evaluation to each academy, based on the academy's report, and any audits, and site visits conducted by DCJS.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 403. The Governor's amended budget (HB5005/SB5015) includes five (5) positions and \$504,321 the first year and \$605,185 the second year of general fund resources in Item 403 for DCJS to implement the proposed legislation. This funding assumes funding for ten months of personnel costs in FY 2021 and full funding in FY 2022. However, DCJS also requests an analyst position to compile and synthesize the information provided by the field services coordinators in order to produce the required evaluation to be delivered to each academy. The funding for the one position is \$89,698 the first year and \$107,634 the second year, including benefits.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8 below).

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, DCJS has three full-time and three part-time Field Services Coordinators responsible for providing technical assistance and regulatory oversight of 38 criminal justice training academies, responsible for training 40,885 law-enforcement officers from 438 law enforcement departments throughout the Commonwealth. Among other responsibilities, these positions are tasked with reviewing these 38 criminal justice training academies for compliance with existing minimum training standards and performance outcomes once every three years through a recertification process.

According to DCJS, the process requires anywhere from half of the existing staff and the entire staff of Field Services Coordinators to visit the academy under review for 4-5 business days, depending on the academy. All but three criminal justice training academies, which

were recertified this year, are due for recertification by the end of 2022 and DCJS anticipates conducting an average of 13 recertifications through 2022. Each field services coordinator is also primarily responsible for monitoring one of six regional divisions, among which all existing criminal justice training academies are divided.

The proposed bill requires DCJS to provide direct assistance to any criminal justice training academy that is not meeting minimum standards or performance objectives. Currently, field services coordinators are also responsible for providing on-site technical assistance to academies, and assisting academies with resolving training delinquency issues. DCJS is unable to determine how many academies will require additional direct assistance beyond what they are currently providing and therefore, the agency is unable to estimate what, if any additional personnel resources will be necessary to comply with this requirement.

The proposed legislation also requires annual evaluations of criminal Justice training academy approved by DCJS. Currently, an evaluation of compliance with existing minimum training standards and performance outcomes occurs once every three years through a recertification process. According to DCJS, conducting annual evaluations of training academies will require six additional personnel, since these activities cannot be absorbed within existing personnel resources. This includes five (5) additional full-time field services coordinators, and one (1) analyst position to draft the necessary reports and synthesize the information provided by both the field services coordinators and the information gleaned from academies.

The general fund support for the five (5) field services coordinators is included in the amended budget (HB5005/SB5015) in Item 403. However, according to DCJS, funding and one additional analyst position will be needed to meet the provisions of the bill. The funding for the one position is \$89,698 the first year and \$107,634 the second year, including benefits.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: DCJS, criminal justice training academies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.