

Submitter: Beth Mulvihill
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB779

Committee Members,

While considering this bill, I hope you will be able to see the extra strain this will put on law enforcement throughout the state. In most of the larger cities, the police forces are understaffed already, because of many factors. This bill would make hiring even more difficult, cutting out potentially terrific candidates.

I was an officer in one of our larger cities for 25 years, and the requirement when I was hired, was for a 2-year degree. Many of the finest and dedicated police officers had only a 2-yr degree, and I imagine there were many good applicants we missed who had lesser school completion.

As you are aware, one of the best qualifications for becoming a great public servant in law enforcement is empathy. 'People skills', not book learning, is what is needed in difficult and crisis situations.

Please consider the job's necessary skills, and do not pass this bill.