

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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DATE: March 20, 2023

TO: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Phil Castle, Director

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1052

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is neutral on Senate Bill 1052. This testimony is specific to Section 9 of the Introduced bill.

<u>Summary:</u> Section 9 of SB 1052 will add a requirement for the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board) to include training on recognizing, investigating, and reporting cases involving labor trafficking and sex trafficking of children and adults in the minimum training that police officers are required to complete to obtain basic police officer certification.

Background: The Board, in consultation with the DPSST, sets the minimum training standards for police officers. The 16-week Basic Police Course delivered by the DPSST includes 640 training hours designed to deliver foundational training (report writing, emergency driving, criminal law, use of force, etc.) and meet statutorily mandated training requirements while remaining adaptive to emerging policing and community needs. After completing the Basic Police Course, police officers complete additional field training through their employing agencies. A police officer must complete the Basic Police Course and the Police Officer Field Training Manual to obtain basic police officer certification.

The Basic Police Course includes introductory training on human trafficking recognition and response, which encompasses both labor trafficking and sex trafficking, a review of criminal laws, and a labor trafficking scenario. The human trafficking training content was added to the Basic Police Course in 2020 in recognition of the importance of this topic as a policing and community need.

Prior to the 2023 Legislative Session, the Attorney General's Labor Trafficking Task Force asked the DPSST to consider a proposal that would solidify the recently added human trafficking training as part of the minimum training requirements for police officers now and into the future.

Effect/Impact of SB 1052 Section 9 on the DPSST: Section 9 of SB 1052 will not have any fiscal or operational impact on the DPSST. This section will add training that is currently part of the Basic Police Course to the statutorily mandated training requirements for police officers so that the training will be retained as a minimum training standard in the future. The addition of this training requirement will not require any change to or extension of the current 16-week Basic Police Course.