



volunteer part-time and reserve police officers, the legislature effectively ended much of the recruitment of part-time and reserve peace officers, regardless of the fact that many of these prospective volunteers who were turned away had been highly experienced and decorated law enforcement from other states or the federal government. Act 668 of the 2022 Regular Session set forth the requirement that these volunteer part-time and reserve law enforcement officers, regardless of experience and compensation, undergo the same minimum 400 hours of core curriculum education and training that is required for a full-time, compensated, entry level peace officers with no law enforcement experience whatsoever.

- (3) Although training is necessary for all law enforcement personnel, the necessary training for experienced part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers should be distinguished from full-time, career, entry level peace officers with no prior law enforcement experience. A program designed specifically to train part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers is, therefore, necessary to provide local law enforcement agencies with the means by which to train and hire these part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers and thereby enhance public safety and reduce crime in local communities throughout La.

Proposed law creates the La. P.O.S.T. Reserve Academy within the Counsel on Peace Officer Standards and Training for the purpose of allowing local law enforcement agencies to recruit part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers to participate in local law enforcement efforts and thereby assist in combating crime in their local communities.

Proposed law provides that, in order to be certified as part-time, volunteer, or reserve police officers, all such persons must successfully complete a minimum of 194 hours of core curriculum for basic peace officers as prescribed by the council.

Present law provides that the instruction or training provided for procedural justice and duty-to-intervene is to be taught by classroom or internet instruction, or both.

Proposed law provides that, in order for employees who have prior law enforcement experience but who are currently employed in other careers, the council will offer or authorize at least a portion of the classroom training to be taught by internet classes during evenings or on weekends for some portion of the 194 hours of core curriculum. The council may approve and enter into agreements with the universities, technical college, or vendors to offer online instruction through internet classes for the portion of training that does not include those necessary skills, such as defensive driving, that must be taught in-person and onsite.

Proposed law provides that the council is to develop and promulgate administrative rules for the certification requirements of part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers, employed on or after the effective date of the Act and the requirement for 194 will apply to all part-time, volunteer, and reserve peace officers, except those part-time or reserve police officers who are exempt from the 400-hour training requirements pursuant to present law.

Present law requires all full-time, part-time and reserve peace officers to successfully complete a minimum of 20 hours of additional in-service training requirements prescribed by the council on an

annual basis, beginning the year after the officer has taken 400 hours of training and been P.O.S.T. certified. All initial training requirements must be completed within the first calendar year after receiving P.O.S.T. certification and annually thereafter. Requires, under certain circumstances, that the council may modify, extend, or waive an in-service training requirement on a case-by-case basis. Requests for modifications, extensions, or waivers of annual in-service training requirements for an officer must be in writing submitted from the agency head to the council. Waivers may be considered for extended continuous medical leave or any other emergency event or events deemed as such by the council.

Proposed law retains present law but clarifies that the exemptions and waivers also apply to volunteer officers as required in present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:2401, 2404.2(A) and (B)(1) and 2405(A)(1) and (2); adds R.S. 40:2405.2)