

1 SENATE BILL 50

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Antonio Maestas

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT; ADDING TELECOMMUNICATORS TO THE
12 LAW ENFORCEMENT RETENTION FUND; CHANGING AND ADDING DEFINITIONS
13 IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACT; CONSOLIDATING TRAINING
14 WITHIN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACT; PROVIDING ADDITIONAL
15 DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING THE NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS
16 AND TRAINING COUNCIL WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES; UPDATING
17 THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND
18 TRAINING COUNCIL; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENT OF THE
19 SENATE FOR CERTAIN APPOINTEES; CHANGING THE TERM "LAW
20 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" TO "POLICE OFFICER" IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT
21 TRAINING ACT; PROVIDING A DEFINITION FOR "SAFETY AGENCY";
22 PROVIDING A DEFINITION FOR "TELECOMMUNICATORS"; PROVIDING FOR
23 ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SATELLITE ACADEMIES; PROVIDING AN
24 ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT TO THE NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT
25 ACADEMY AND SATELLITE ACADEMIES; AMENDING, REPEALING AND

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1 ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.

2

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

4 SECTION 1. Section 9-19-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2022,
5 Chapter 56, Section 36, as amended) is amended to read:

6 "9-19-14. LAW ENFORCEMENT RETENTION FUND--CREATED--
7 RETENTION DIFFERENTIAL DISBURSEMENT--REPORTING.--

8 A. The "law enforcement retention fund" is created
9 in the state treasury. The fund consists of money appropriated
10 by the legislature, federal money granted to the state for the
11 purposes of the fund, income from investment of the fund and
12 money otherwise accruing to the fund. Money in the fund shall
13 not revert to any other fund at the end of a fiscal year. The
14 department shall administer the fund to provide:

15 (1) retention differential disbursements for
16 full-time certified law enforcement officers and
17 telecommunicators meeting certain levels of tenure; and

18 (2) support for disbursement administration
19 processes and reporting compliance.

20 B. Money in the fund shall be disbursed on warrants
21 signed by the secretary of finance and administration pursuant
22 to vouchers signed by the secretary of public safety.

23 C. Contingent on the completion of reporting
24 requirements provided in Subsection H of this section, the
25 department shall determine and distribute annually the amount

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1 necessary to provide to a law enforcement or safety agency for
2 the purpose of providing a retention differential disbursement
3 to full-time certified law enforcement officers and
4 telecommunicators employed by that law enforcement or safety
5 agency. A law enforcement or safety agency shall expend
6 funding received for no other purpose than that permitted by
7 this section, and any unexpended balance received by a law
8 enforcement or safety agency pursuant to this section at the
9 end of a fiscal year shall revert to the law enforcement
10 retention fund. The department shall monitor the use of
11 funding and ensure the proper reversions to the law enforcement
12 retention fund.

13 D. A full-time certified law enforcement officer or
14 telecommunicator shall be eligible to receive a retention
15 differential disbursement upon completing four, nine, fourteen
16 and nineteen years of service from the anniversary of the full-
17 time certified law enforcement officer's or telecommunicator's
18 date of hire with a law enforcement or safety agency. If the
19 officer or telecommunicator remains employed as a full-time
20 certified law enforcement officer or telecommunicator at that
21 same law enforcement or safety agency for an additional year,
22 then the officer or telecommunicator shall receive a retention
23 differential disbursement of five percent of the officer's or
24 telecommunicator's annual base salary upon completing five
25 years of service, upon completing ten years of service, upon

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1 completing fifteen years of service and upon completing twenty
2 years of service.

3 E. Upon completing twenty years of service, a full-
4 time certified law enforcement officer or telecommunicator
5 shall become eligible to receive a retention differential
6 disbursement in the amount of five percent of the officer's or
7 telecommunicator's annual base salary if the officer or
8 telecommunicator remains employed as a full-time certified law
9 enforcement officer or telecommunicator at the same law
10 enforcement or safety agency for an additional year by
11 completing twenty-one years of service. For each year of
12 service completed after twenty-one years of service, the
13 officer or telecommunicator shall receive an annual retention
14 differential disbursement in the amount of five percent of the
15 officer's or telecommunicator's annual salary if the officer or
16 telecommunicator remains employed as a full-time law
17 enforcement officer or telecommunicator at the same law
18 enforcement or safety agency.

19 F. After the calculations for retention
20 differential disbursements are made in accordance with
21 Subsections D and E of this section, if the balance in the fund
22 is insufficient to permit the total disbursements provided by
23 Subsections D and E of this section, the department shall
24 reduce that allocation to the maximum amount permitted by
25 available money in the fund.

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1 G. The amount provided for a retention differential
2 disbursement shall include the amount of employer tax
3 liabilities, which shall be paid by the employer at the time
4 the retention differential disbursement is provided to the
5 full-time certified law enforcement officer or
6 telecommunicator.

7 H. To receive funding pursuant to Subsection C of
8 this section, a law enforcement or safety agency shall make
9 that request to the department prior to June 1 of each fiscal
10 year, and in that request, the agency shall report the
11 following:

12 (1) the number of officers and
13 telecommunicators that are projected to become eligible for a
14 retention differential disbursement in the upcoming fiscal year
15 and the projected amount of the retention differential
16 disbursement, including any employer tax liabilities;

17 (2) the number of full-time certified law
18 enforcement officers and telecommunicators employed by the law
19 enforcement or safety agency for the last five years;

20 (3) the number of years of service of each
21 full-time certified law enforcement officer and
22 telecommunicator employed by the law enforcement or safety
23 agency;

24 (4) the number of full-time certified law
25 enforcement officers and telecommunicators that left the employ

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1 of the law enforcement or safety agency in the last year and
2 the stated reasons why each full-time certified law enforcement
3 officer or telecommunicator left the employ of the law
4 enforcement or safety agency;

5 (5) the number of years of service of each
6 full-time certified law enforcement officer or telecommunicator
7 that left the employ of the law enforcement or safety agency in
8 the last year;

9 (6) the number of applicants to the law
10 enforcement or safety agency in the last year;

11 (7) the number of applicants to the law
12 enforcement or safety agency in the last year that attended a
13 law enforcement academy;

14 (8) the number of full-time certified law
15 enforcement officers and telecommunicators that received one or
16 more certifications in the last year;

17 (9) the number of full-time certified law
18 enforcement officers and telecommunicators added to the law
19 enforcement or safety agency via lateral transfer and the years
20 of service of each full-time certified law enforcement officer
21 or telecommunicator at each previous law enforcement or safety
22 agency;

23 (10) any changes to compensation, recruiting,
24 retention or benefits implemented by the law enforcement or
25 safety agency in the last year; and

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1 (11) any other information that is used for
2 determining retention rates unless disclosure of such
3 information is otherwise prohibited by law.

4 I. The department shall:

5 (1) provide forms, standards and procedures
6 and related training to law enforcement or safety agencies as
7 necessary for the agencies to report retention information;

8 (2) maintain the privacy and security of
9 information in accordance with applicable state and federal
10 laws; and

11 (3) adopt and promulgate rules as necessary to
12 implement the provisions of this section.

13 J. To receive funding pursuant to Subsection C of
14 this section, a law enforcement or safety agency shall be
15 compliant with the Law Enforcement Training Act at the time the
16 request is made pursuant to Subsection H of this section.

17 K. To receive funding pursuant to Subsection C of
18 this section, a law enforcement or safety agency shall have
19 submitted the agency's most current roster of full-time
20 certified law enforcement officers and telecommunicators,
21 including commission dates, to the New Mexico law enforcement
22 academy no later than April 1 of each year.

23 L. The annual report and other statistical data
24 reports generated by the department shall be made available to
25 law enforcement or safety agencies and the public.

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1 M. The department shall provide annual reports to
2 the department of finance and administration and the
3 legislative finance committee about expenditures from the law
4 enforcement retention fund, including an itemized list of
5 expenditures and the balance remaining in the fund.

6 N. The department may waive reporting information
7 required by a law enforcement or safety agency pursuant to
8 Subsection H of this section; provided that the department
9 shall provide an explanation of its decision in writing.

10 O. The department shall submit an annual report
11 providing information collected pursuant to Subsection H of
12 this section to the governor and the legislature no later than
13 December 15 of each year.

14 P. As used in this section:

15 (1) "full-time certified law enforcement
16 officer" means a full-time certified salaried public employee
17 of a law enforcement agency whose principal duties under law
18 are to hold in custody any person accused of a criminal
19 offense, to maintain public order or to make arrests for
20 crimes;

21 (2) "law enforcement agency" means an agency
22 of the state or local political subdivision of the state that
23 employs certified law enforcement officers or the police
24 department of a tribe that has entered into an agreement with
25 the department pursuant to Section 29-1-11 NMSA 1978; [~~and~~]

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1 (3) "retention differential disbursement"
2 means the amount disbursed from the law enforcement retention
3 fund based on a full-time certified law enforcement officer's
4 or telecommunicator's service at a law enforcement or safety
5 agency but is not considered salary for the purpose of
6 calculating retirement benefits;

7 (4) "safety agency" means a unit of state or
8 local government, a special purpose district or a private
9 business that provides police, firefighting or emergency
10 medical services; and

11 (5) "telecommunicator" means an employee or
12 volunteer of a safety agency who:

13 (a) receives calls or dispatches the
14 appropriate personnel or equipment in response to calls for
15 police, fire or medical services; and

16 (b) makes decisions affecting the life,
17 health or welfare of the public or safety employees."

18 SECTION 2. Section 29-7-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969,
19 Chapter 264, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "29-7-2. ACADEMY ESTABLISHED.--The "New Mexico law
21 enforcement academy" is established as a division within the
22 department of public safety to provide a planned program of
23 basic law enforcement training and ~~[in-service law enforcement~~
24 ~~training for police officers and to furnish instruction and~~
25 ~~seminars to constantly upgrade law enforcement within the~~

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1 state] required continuing education for certification for
2 police officers and telecommunicators, as well as a continuum
3 of educational options for advanced, specialized and executive
4 police practice throughout the state. The academy shall apply
5 the standards set by the council for certification of new
6 satellite training academies and re-certification at least
7 every three years."

8 SECTION 3. Section 29-7-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979,
9 Chapter 202, Section 42, as amended) is amended to read:

10 "29-7-3. NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND
11 TRAINING COUNCIL.--

12 A. The "New Mexico law enforcement standards and
13 training council" is created and is administratively attached
14 to the New Mexico law enforcement academy of the department of
15 public safety [~~which shall provide staff support for the~~
16 ~~council~~].

17 B. The council shall [~~develop and promulgate~~
18 ~~training requirements, curricula and methods; professional~~
19 ~~development programs; and performance standards for law~~
20 ~~enforcement officers and public safety telecommunicators at all~~
21 ~~levels, including basic, field training officer programs,~~
22 ~~advanced, specialized and instructor training to be consistent~~
23 ~~throughout New Mexico~~] have oversight for all police officer
24 and public safety telecommunicators standards, training and
25 educational requirements.

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1 C. The council shall develop standards and
2 certification requirements for regional satellite training
3 academies. The standards shall be consistent with
4 accreditation standards for the academy and shall be reviewed
5 and updated at least every five years.

6 D. The council shall develop all law enforcement
7 education programs. All programs listed in this section shall
8 be independently reviewed at least every five years, except
9 that required continuing education programs shall be reviewed
10 every two years and the annual legal update shall be reviewed
11 annually. Reviews shall ensure that all programs conform to
12 evidence-based standards and national best practices.

13 E. With the exception of physical fitness,
14 equipment and technology instruction, the programs shall:

15 (1) represent current information and state-
16 of-the-art, evidence-based best practice;

17 (2) include an appropriate amount of time to
18 integrate knowledge and skills with scenario-based or
19 situation-based applications;

20 (3) be delivered either in-person or online
21 with faculty availability to students throughout the course;

22 (4) make effective use of simulation systems
23 or live actors;

24 (5) require police officers to complete a
25 brief evaluation for anonymous submission to the academy upon

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1 completion of any session; and

2 (6) test using best practices for adult
3 learning, including use of scenario-based and situation-based
4 questions. Multiple choice questions, true-or-false questions
5 and yes-or-no questions shall be limited to factual information
6 and comprise no more than twenty-five percent of the score.

7 F. The council shall hire a director and support
8 staff to carry out the mission of the council and serve as the
9 office that supports the work of the council. The director and
10 staff shall conduct research and may contract with outside
11 experts to complete the council's work.

12 [~~G.~~] G. The council consists of:

13 (1) the director of the academy, [~~and the~~
14 ~~directors of the accredited regional law enforcement training~~
15 ~~facilities]~~ who [~~serve]~~ serves ex officio [~~and]~~ as a nonvoting
16 member;

17 (2) three directors of regional satellite law
18 enforcement academies, who shall serve rotating terms
19 representing different regions of the state; and

20 [~~(2) eleven]~~ (3) twelve members appointed by
21 the governor, [~~and confirmed by the senate]~~ consisting of:

22 (a) one attorney employed in a district
23 attorney's office;

24 (b) one attorney employed by the public
25 defender department or an attorney who practices criminal

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1 defense;

2 (c) one certified police chief of a New
3 Mexico Indian nation, tribe or pueblo;

4 (d) two New Mexico state-certified
5 public safety telecommunicators, one of whom shall be ~~[from an~~
6 ~~agency that offers fire and medical telecommunications services~~
7 ~~and one of whom shall be from a public safety agency serving a~~
8 ~~rural part]~~ a director of emergency management, from different
9 regions of the state;

10 ~~[(e) two members who have experience and~~
11 ~~specialize in providing adult education;~~

12 ~~(f)]~~ (e) two citizen-at-large members
13 ~~[one of whom has behavioral health expertise and neither of~~
14 ~~whom is an active or retired law enforcement officer or public~~
15 ~~safety telecommunicator or has a familial or financial~~
16 ~~connection to an active or retired law enforcement officer or~~
17 ~~public safety telecommunicator or any agency or department for~~
18 ~~which a law enforcement officer or public safety~~
19 ~~telecommunicator works]~~ representing different regions of the
20 state;

21 ~~[(g)]~~ (f) a sheriff who is a New Mexico
22 state-certified ~~[law enforcement]~~ police officer, ~~[and~~

23 ~~(h) a municipal law enforcement manager~~
24 ~~who is a New Mexico state certified law enforcement officer in~~
25 ~~a command position;~~

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1 ~~D. An appointed council member shall serve and have~~
2 ~~all the duties, responsibilities and authority of that office~~
3 ~~during the period prior to the final action by the senate in~~
4 ~~confirming or rejecting the appointments]~~ who shall serve as a
5 liaison to the New Mexico sheriffs' association;

6 (g) one municipal police chief certified
7 as a police officer, who shall serve as a liaison to the police
8 chiefs association;

9 (h) two faculty members from a public or
10 private post-secondary educational institution's criminal
11 justice program; and

12 (i) one behavioral health expert.

13 H. Except for certified law enforcement academy
14 directors and members requiring certification as a police
15 officer or public safety telecommunicator, other members shall
16 have no familial or financial connection to an active or
17 retired police officer or public safety telecommunicator or any
18 agency or department for which a police officer or public
19 safety telecommunicator works.

20 I. Members of the council may be reappointed.
21 Members of the council shall elect the chair of the council.

22 J. Vacancies on the council shall be filled by
23 appointment by the governor [~~with the consent of the senate~~]
24 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

25 ~~[E.]~~ K. Appointments to the council shall be for

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1 staggered terms of four years or less made in such manner that
2 the terms of not more than four members expire on July 1 of
3 each year.

4 ~~[F.]~~ L. Members of the council are entitled to
5 receive, for their service as members of the council, per diem
6 and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

7 M. The council shall adopt, publish and file, in
8 accordance with the provisions of the State Rules Act, all
9 rules concerning the implementation and enforcement of this
10 section."

11 SECTION 4. Section 29-7-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2022,
12 Chapter 56, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

13 "29-7-4.3. LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION BOARD--
14 APPOINTMENT--POWERS AND DUTIES--REFUSAL TO ISSUE OR DENIAL,
15 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION--SUSPENSION OF
16 CERTIFICATION FOR FAILURE TO MEET ~~[REQUIRED IN SERVICE~~
17 ~~TRAINING]~~ CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS--CONFIDENTIALITY OF
18 INVESTIGATIONS--LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION OFFICE CREATED.--

19 A. The "law enforcement certification board" is
20 established and administratively attached to the department of
21 public safety ~~[and the department shall provide administrative~~
22 ~~services for the board and the law enforcement certification~~
23 ~~office].~~

24 B. The board consists of eleven members appointed
25 by the governor ~~[with the advice and consent of the senate].~~

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1 The board shall elect a chair and vice chair. No more than
2 [~~six~~] seven members shall be members of the same political
3 party. Members shall be appointed so as to represent different
4 geographic areas of the state and the ethnic and cultural
5 diversity of the state's population. The members shall be
6 appointed for staggered five-year terms, except that for the
7 initial board, two members shall be appointed for one-year
8 terms, two members shall be appointed for two-year terms, two
9 members shall be appointed for three-year terms, two members
10 shall be appointed for four-year terms and three members shall
11 be appointed for five-year terms.

12 C. The board shall include the following members:

13 (1) [~~a retired district judge, who serves as~~
14 ~~chair of the board~~] an attorney with judicial experience;

15 (2) a current or retired New Mexico state-
16 certified municipal law enforcement manager in a command
17 position;

18 (3) a retired sheriff who was certified or a
19 current sheriff who is certified as a [~~law enforcement~~] police
20 officer;

21 (4) a current or retired state or local New
22 Mexico state-certified [~~law enforcement~~] police officer who has
23 law enforcement management command experience;

24 (5) a current or retired tribal law [~~law~~
25 ~~enforcement~~] police officer;

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1 (6) a certified public safety
2 telecommunicator;

3 (7) an attorney in private practice who
4 practices as a plaintiff's attorney in the area of civil rights
5 or who represents criminal defendants;

6 (8) an attorney in private practice who
7 represents public entities in civil rights claims;

8 (9) an attorney who is employed by the public
9 defender department;

10 (10) a professor of criminal justice at a
11 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico;
12 and

13 (11) a citizen-at-large who has knowledge and
14 interest in law enforcement [~~training~~] education.

15 D. ~~[An appointed member shall serve and have all of~~
16 ~~the duties, responsibilities and authority of that office~~
17 ~~during the period prior to the final action by the senate in~~
18 ~~confirming or rejecting the appointment.]~~ Vacancies shall be
19 filled by appointment by the governor [~~with the consent of the~~
20 ~~senate~~] for the unexpired term of the member. Members are
21 entitled to receive per diem and mileage as provided in the Per
22 Diem and Mileage Act.

23 E. The board shall have the authority to:

24 (1) deny admission to a certification program,
25 suspend or revoke:

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1 (a) a [~~peace~~] police officer's
2 certification [~~for just cause as provided in the Law~~
3 ~~Enforcement Training Act~~] with evidence demonstrating probable
4 cause that continued performance represents a threat to public
5 safety, including the potential for imminent harm to others or
6 agency liability; and

7 (b) a telecommunicator's certification
8 [~~for just cause as provided in the Public Safety~~
9 ~~Telecommunicator Training Act~~] with evidence demonstrating
10 probable cause that continued performance represents a threat
11 to public safety, including the potential for imminent harm to
12 others or agency liability; and

13 (2) conduct investigations, administer oaths
14 and subpoena persons as necessary to make a determination
15 regarding fitness of a: [~~law enforcement~~]

16 (a) police officer to execute [~~a law~~
17 ~~enforcement officer's~~] assigned duties; or

18 (b) public safety telecommunicator to
19 execute assigned duties.

20 F. The board may require by subpoena the attendance
21 of witnesses or the production of records and other evidence
22 relevant to an investigation and shall have such other powers
23 and duties and administer or enforce such other acts as further
24 provided by law.

25 G. The board shall appoint a chief executive

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1 officer to assist the board in carrying out its functions. The
2 chief executive officer shall employ ~~[persons]~~ professional and
3 support staff as necessary to assist the board in carrying out
4 its functions. The chief executive officer and staff shall
5 function with complete independence of the department of public
6 safety and shall have the chief executive officer's own budget
7 and budget authority.

8 H. The board shall adopt, publish and file, in
9 accordance with the provisions of the State Rules Act, all
10 rules concerning the implementation and enforcement of ~~[the Law~~
11 ~~Enforcement Training Act and Public Safety Telecommunicator~~
12 ~~Training Act]~~ this section except those sections enumerated in
13 Subsection E of Section 29-7-4 NMSA 1978 for which rules shall
14 be adopted, published and filed by the ~~[council]~~ board.

15 I. The board shall issue or renew a certification
16 to:

17 (1) graduates from an approved basic law
18 enforcement training program who satisfy the qualifications for
19 certification as set forth in Section 29-7-6 NMSA 1978; or

20 (2) graduates from an approved basic
21 telecommunicator training program who satisfy the
22 qualifications for certification as set forth in the Public
23 Safety Telecommunicator Training Act.

24 J. Members of the board shall receive, for their
25 service as members of the board, per diem and mileage as

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1 provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

2 K. Internal affairs and other investigation
3 documents provided to or developed by the board for use in a
4 certification case shall remain confidential. A decision of
5 the board is a final agency decision and may be appealed as
6 provided in Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978."

7 SECTION 5. Section 29-7-4.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2022,
8 Chapter 56, Section 6) is amended to read:

9 "29-7-4.4. [~~LAW ENFORCEMENT~~] POLICE OFFICER TRAINING.--

10 A. The curriculum of each basic law enforcement
11 training [~~class and in-service training each year for certified~~
12 ~~police officers shall include:~~

- 13 A. ~~crisis management and intervention;~~
- 14 B. ~~dealing with individuals who are experiencing~~
15 ~~mental health issues;~~
- 16 C. ~~methods of de-escalation;~~
- 17 D. ~~peer to peer intervention;~~
- 18 E. ~~stress management;~~
- 19 F. ~~racial sensitivity;~~
- 20 G. ~~reality-based situational training; and~~
- 21 H. ~~use of force training that includes the~~

22 ~~elimination of vascular neck restraints] required for program~~

23 certification as a police officer shall be determined by the

24 council based on:

25 (1) the required updated job task analysis for

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1 police officers conducted every five years; and

2 (2) a comprehensive set of topics based on
3 evidence- and science-based national best practices that
4 address:

5 (a) all core skills and knowledge for
6 which proficiency is required;

7 (b) integrated application of knowledge
8 and skills in typical situations faced by new police officers;

9 (c) integrated application of knowledge
10 and skills in high-risk and high-liability situations
11 encountered by police officers;

12 (d) use of knowledge and skills in
13 complex settings with multiple responding police officers;

14 (e) minimizing risk and liability at any
15 scene;

16 (f) respect for all persons regardless
17 of race, color, national origin, gender, disability status or
18 language;

19 (g) attention to police officer
20 wellness;

21 (h) new challenges in police practice
22 that may vary by locality; and

23 (i) all weapons and technology available
24 to most police officers at the time.

25 B. The academy shall design and implement, and

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1 update with national standards, with oversight and approval of
2 the council, the following programs:

3 (1) basic police officer certification
4 training;

5 (2) basic public safety telecommunicator
6 certification training;

7 (3) certification by waiver for experienced
8 police officers from other states or federal agencies;

9 (4) general instructor certification
10 credentialing for police officers;

11 (5) general instructor certification
12 credentialing for public safety telecommunicators;

13 (6) continuing education requirements;

14 (7) field training officer certification by
15 July 1, 2027;

16 (8) executive certification training by July
17 1, 2028;

18 (9) specialty law enforcement training by July
19 1, 2027;

20 (10) specialty faculty credentialing by July
21 1, 2027;

22 (11) advanced law enforcement training by July
23 1, 2027;

24 (12) advanced faculty credentialing by July 1,
25 2027; and

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1 (13) advanced public safety telecommunicator
2 training by July 1, 2028.

3 C. All curricula approved and in use shall be
4 published to the academy's website and shall be up-to-date at
5 all times before any classes begin. Curricula shall not be
6 published in the New Mexico Administrative Code.

7 D. The academy shall offer all certified police
8 officers, on the website of the division, an up-to-date, online
9 catalog of application material for courses regarding law
10 enforcement, criminal justice and related courses offered by
11 New Mexico state-funded colleges and universities.

12 E. The council shall research national programs and
13 educational approaches and convene experts to recommend
14 standards, content, methods and hours for any topics.

15 F. The council director and staff shall have
16 expertise in adult education and curriculum development and
17 shall use contracted resources to bring national expertise to
18 the work of the council. Curricula shall be field tested and
19 evaluated by the academy and regional satellite academies.

20 G. With the exception of physical fitness,
21 equipment and technology instruction, all police and public
22 safety telecommunicator basic training and education,
23 continuing education and faculty credentialing programs shall
24 meet the following criteria:

25 (1) provide clear objectives;

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- 1 (2) articulate the importance, risks,
2 liabilities and potential stakes of inadequate performance;
3 (3) represent current information and state-
4 of-the-art, evidence-based national best practices;
5 (4) include references to science and evidence
6 basis, relevant law and legal precedent;
7 (5) incorporate an individual's performance
8 with that of the law enforcement team in achieving desired
9 outcomes;
10 (6) identify risks related to civil rights
11 violations and adapt to behavioral health and disability issues
12 and ethical considerations;
13 (7) address adult learning principles
14 explicitly to promote:
15 (a) active thinking, rather than acting
16 out of habit;
17 (b) self-monitoring for implicit bias;
18 (c) concentration and intentionality of
19 action;
20 (d) awareness of environment and
21 collateral damage or harm;
22 (e) critical observation to preserve
23 evidence; and
24 (f) cooperation and coordination within
25 each team;

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1 (8) specify the level of proficiency and
2 performance required for certification; and
3 (9) include an appropriate amount of time to
4 integrate knowledge and skills with scenario-based or
5 situation-based applications appropriate to student experience.

6 H. Regional satellite law enforcement academies
7 shall demonstrate equivalence of all required curriculum
8 approved for the academy. Regional satellite academies may
9 develop their own curricula in addition to that required and
10 approved for the academy, but all curricula must meet the
11 criteria set forth in Subsection G of this section. All
12 satellite academy curricula shall be published and kept current
13 on the satellite academy's website."

14 SECTION 6. Section 29-7-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969,
15 Chapter 264, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

16 "29-7-5. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.--~~The~~
17 ~~director shall be under the supervision and direction of the~~
18 ~~secretary of public safety.]~~ The director shall:

19 A. be the chief executive officer of the academy
20 and employ necessary personnel;

21 B. issue a certificate of completion to any person
22 who:

23 (1) graduates from an approved basic law
24 enforcement training program and who satisfies the
25 qualifications for certification as set forth in Section 29-7-6

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1 NMSA 1978; or

2 (2) graduates from an approved basic
3 telecommunicator training program and who satisfies the
4 qualifications for certification as set forth in the Public
5 Safety Telecommunicator Training Act;

6 C. perform all other acts necessary and appropriate
7 to the carrying out of the director's duties;

8 D. implement the training standards and
9 requirements developed and adopted by the council; and

10 E. annually evaluate the courses of instruction
11 being offered by the academy and make necessary modifications
12 and adjustments to the programs."

13 SECTION 7. Section 29-7-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1981,
14 Chapter 114, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

15 "29-7-7. DEFINITIONS.--For the purpose of the Law
16 Enforcement Training Act:

17 A. "academy" means the New Mexico law enforcement
18 academy;

19 B. "basic law enforcement training" means a course
20 consisting of not less than [~~four~~] six hundred hours of
21 instruction in basic law enforcement training as required by
22 the Law Enforcement Training Act;

23 C. "board" means the law enforcement certification
24 board;

25 D. "continuing education" means a program of

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1 instruction that is required by all police officers or public
2 safety telecommunicators designed to refresh critical core
3 skills and to introduce updated science- and evidence-based
4 national best practices most relevant to job performance and an
5 individual's experience in the field. Part of the program may
6 be required of all police officers or public safety
7 telecommunicators, while other parts may be adapted to specific
8 job, experience and agency. Continuing education requirements
9 may be met through any regional certified law enforcement
10 academy, by a credentialed faculty within an agency or by a
11 pre-approved substitution of college credit for comparable
12 content;

13 ~~[D.]~~ E. "conviction" means an adjudication of guilt
14 ~~[or a plea of no contest]~~ and includes ~~[convictions]~~ sentences
15 that are suspended or deferred;

16 ~~[E.]~~ F. "council" means the New Mexico law
17 enforcement standards and training council;

18 ~~[F.]~~ G. "director" means the director of the
19 division;

20 ~~[G.]~~ H. "division" means the New Mexico law
21 enforcement academy of the department of public safety;

22 ~~[H.]~~ ~~"in-service law enforcement training" means a~~
23 ~~course of instruction required of all certified peace officers~~
24 ~~and designed to train and equip all police officers in the~~
25 ~~state with specific law enforcement skills and to ensure the~~

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1 ~~continuing development of all police officers in the state.~~
2 ~~The training and instruction shall be kept current and may be~~
3 ~~conducted on a regional basis at the discretion of the~~
4 ~~director;]~~

5 I. "faculty certification" means certification in a
6 program that ensures proficiency in relevant skills, knowledge
7 and integration in practice as well as continuing education in
8 teaching law enforcement professionals to use appropriate adult
9 education methods based on national best practices and accepted
10 adult education standards, also referred to as credentialing;

11 J. "job task analysis" means a research-based
12 assessment of the most current scope of practice for a specific
13 professional position, such as police officer or public safety
14 telecommunicator;

15 [~~F.~~] K. "law enforcement agency" means an agency of
16 the state or [local] political subdivision of the state that
17 employs certified law enforcement officers or police officers
18 of the police department of a tribe that has entered into an
19 agreement with the department of public safety pursuant to
20 Section 29-1-11 NMSA 1978;

21 L. "performance" means expected standards that
22 demonstrate the integration of knowledge and practice in
23 application to the situations likely to be encountered in a
24 specific law enforcement position. Performance standards shall
25 be specified in relation to certification, and law enforcement

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1 agencies may specify additional performance standards for
2 employees;

3 [J.] M. "police officer" means [any] a commissioned
4 employee of a law enforcement agency that is part of or
5 administered by the state or [any] a political subdivision of
6 the state, [~~and includes any employee of a missile range~~
7 ~~civilian police department who is a graduate of a recognized~~
8 ~~certified regional law enforcement training facility and who is~~
9 ~~currently certifiable by the academy] which employee is
10 responsible for [~~the prevention and detection of crime or the~~
11 ~~enforcement of the penal, or traffic or highway laws of this~~
12 ~~state] enforcing laws, maintaining public order, investigating
13 crimes, testifying in court and building public trust. The
14 term specifically includes deputy sheriffs. Sheriffs are
15 eligible to attend the academy and are eligible to receive
16 certification as provided in the Law Enforcement Training Act.
17 As used in this subsection, "commissioned" means an employee of
18 a law enforcement agency who is authorized by a sheriff or
19 chief of police to [~~apprehend~~] arrest, charge and bring before
20 the court all violators within the law enforcement agency's
21 jurisdiction; [~~and~~]~~~~

22 N. "proficiency" means meeting expected standards
23 for a specific skill;

24 [K.] O. "certified regional law enforcement
25 training facility" means a law enforcement training facility

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1 within the state certified by the director, with the approval
2 of the [~~academy's board of directors~~] council, that offers
3 basic law enforcement training and [~~in-service law enforcement~~
4 ~~training~~] continuing education that is comparable to or exceeds
5 the standards of the programs of the academy;

6 P. "safety agency" means a unit of state or local
7 government or political subdivision that provides police,
8 firefighting or emergency medical services;

9 Q. "satellite academy" means a certified law
10 enforcement training facility within the state that is
11 certified to meet standards set by the council and for which
12 compliance with standards is determined at least once every
13 three years by the academy;

14 R. "telecommunicator" means an employee or
15 volunteer of a safety agency who:

16 (1) receives calls or dispatches the
17 appropriate personnel or equipment in response to calls for
18 police, fire or medical services; and

19 (2) makes decisions affecting the life, health
20 or welfare of the public or safety agency employees; and

21 S. "training" means a program of core knowledge and
22 skills required for initial certification in a law enforcement
23 position."

24 **SECTION 8.** Section 29-11-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,
25 Chapter 27, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

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1 "29-11-5. SEXUAL CRIMES PROSECUTION AND TREATMENT
2 PROGRAM.--

3 A. The administrator shall develop, with the
4 cooperation of the [~~criminal justice~~] corrections department,
5 the New Mexico state police, the New Mexico law enforcement
6 academy, other authorized law enforcement agencies and existing
7 community-based victim treatment programs, a statewide
8 comprehensive plan to train [~~law enforcement~~] police officers
9 and criminal justice and medical personnel in the ability to
10 deal with sexual crimes; to develop strategies for prevention
11 of such crimes; to provide assistance in the assembly of
12 evidence for the facilitation of prosecution of such crimes;
13 and to provide medical and psychological treatment to victims
14 of such crimes. This plan shall include, but not be limited
15 to:

16 (1) education and training of [~~law~~
17 ~~enforcement~~] police officers and criminal justice and medical
18 personnel;

19 (2) collection, processing and analysis of
20 evidence [~~which~~] that facilitates prosecution of suspects of
21 sexual crimes; and

22 (3) medical and psychological treatment of
23 victims of such crimes.

24 B. The comprehensive plan shall be implemented
25 throughout the state, and the administrator may contract with

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1 appropriate persons, entities, agencies or community-based
2 programs to provide the services to be rendered pursuant to
3 Subsection A of this section and may pay a reasonable fee for
4 [~~such~~] the services.

5 C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
6 require criminal prosecution of a suspect of a sexual crime by
7 the victim to whom services are rendered pursuant to the
8 provisions of the Sexual Crimes Prosecution and Treatment Act.

9 ~~[D. Training for law enforcement officers in the
10 proper treatment of victims of sexual crimes and collection of
11 evidence and coordination among agencies shall be incorporated
12 in the regular training program for recruits by the New Mexico
13 state police the basic course taught by the New Mexico law
14 enforcement academy or by other authorized law enforcement
15 agencies. Already commissioned officers and sex-crime
16 investigators shall receive advanced training through in-
17 service programs.]"~~

18 SECTION 9. Section 29-13-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983,
19 Chapter 289, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "29-13-6. DISTRIBUTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION
21 FUND.--

22 A. Based on a periodic allotment approved by the
23 division for the current fiscal year, the state treasurer shall
24 distribute from the fund the amounts certified by the division
25 to be distributed to governmental entities and the peace

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1 officers', New Mexico mounted patrol members' and reserve
2 police officers' survivors fund as required in Section 29-13-4
3 NMSA 1978. Payments shall be made by the treasurer to the
4 appropriate governmental entity or fund unless otherwise
5 specified in Subsection C of this section.

6 B. The state treasurer is authorized to redirect a
7 distribution to the New Mexico finance authority in an amount
8 certified by the division, pursuant to an ordinance or a
9 resolution passed by the municipality or county and a written
10 agreement of the municipality or county and the New Mexico
11 finance authority.

12 C. Based on a periodic allotment approved by the
13 division for the current fiscal year, the state treasurer shall
14 distribute from the money in the fund money certified by the
15 division to be distributed to tribes. Payment shall be made to
16 the chief financial officer of the tribe. If necessary, the
17 fund may be decreased below the level of one hundred thousand
18 dollars (\$100,000) to enable payment to the tribes. If
19 insufficient money remains in the fund to fully compensate the
20 tribes, a report shall be made to the Indian affairs department
21 and to an appropriate interim committee of the legislature that
22 reviews issues having impact on tribes by September 1 of the
23 year of the shortfall.

24 D. The New Mexico law enforcement standards and
25 training council may notify the division and the state

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1 treasurer to withhold the distribution to any governmental
2 entity that has failed to submit required reports to the
3 council as provided in Section 29-7-7.2 NMSA 1978, ~~[or]~~ that
4 employs ~~[law-enforcement]~~ police officers who have failed to
5 submit proof of completion of required in-service law
6 enforcement training as required in Section 29-7-7.1 NMSA 1978
7 or that loses or fails to achieve accreditation as provided in
8 Section 10 of this 2025 act.

9 E. To facilitate satellite academies coming into
10 compliance with modernized and expanded curricula, additional
11 funding may be needed to acquire equipment, licenses or other
12 resources to ensure the required level of integration and
13 simulation capacity. A satellite academy that requires
14 additional resources may submit a request for funding for up to
15 three years, in amounts less than one hundred thousand dollars
16 (\$100,000). An applicant shall explain why the applicant's
17 sponsoring organization is unable to meet specific requirements
18 and shall be required to submit a commitment from the
19 applicant's sponsoring agency to build the ongoing operating
20 cost into the applicant's budget."

21 SECTION 10. A new section of the Law Enforcement Training
22 Act is enacted to read:

23 "[NEW MATERIAL] ACCREDITATION.--

24 A. The director shall apply for and ensure national
25 accreditation of the academy through the commission on

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1 accreditation for law enforcement agencies no later than
2 January 1, 2029.

3 B. The council shall review accreditation standards
4 and select those most appropriate to the certified satellite
5 academies, and these standards shall be integrated into
6 certification standards for those organizations.

7 C. The academy and a satellite academy are
8 ineligible for funds distributed by the law enforcement
9 protection fund when accreditation or certification is lost."

10 SECTION 11. APPROPRIATIONS.--

11 A. Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) is
12 appropriated from the general fund to the department of public
13 safety for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent
14 fiscal years for job task analysis, assessment and
15 recommendations to modernize public safety telecommunicator
16 training, in particular to conform to new technology and crisis
17 behavioral health help-line and alternative response unit
18 services. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
19 the end of fiscal year 2026 shall not revert to the general
20 fund.

21 B. Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) is
22 appropriated from the general fund to the department of public
23 safety for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent
24 fiscal years for contractor curriculum development and testing
25 to implement public safety telecommunicator training. Any

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1 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
2 fiscal year 2026 shall not revert to the general fund.

3 C. Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) is
4 appropriated from the general fund to the department of public
5 safety for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent
6 fiscal years for contractor curriculum development for new in-
7 service training programs for all police officers. Any
8 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
9 fiscal year 2026 shall not revert to the general fund.

10 SECTION 12. REPEAL.--Sections 29-7-4.1, 29-7-4.2, 29-7-5,
11 29-7-7.3 through 29-7-7.5, 29-7-7.7, 29-20-3 and 31-18B-5 NMSA
12 1978 (being Laws 2002, Chapter 34, Section 3 and Laws 2002,
13 Chapter 35, Section 3; Laws 2011, Chapter 49, Section 1; Laws
14 1969, Chapter 264, Section 7; Laws 2007, Chapter 89, Section 1;
15 Laws 2010, Chapter 33, Section 1; Laws 2011, Chapter 180,
16 Section 1; Laws 2017, Chapter 35, Section 1; Laws 2003, Chapter
17 260, Section 3; and Laws 2003, Chapter 384, Section 5, as
18 amended) are repealed.