

LOCAL CORRECTIONS OFFICERS TRAINING

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Senate Bill 1125 as passed by the Senate

Sponsor: Sen. Peter J. Lucido

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Government Operations [Discharged]

Complete to 12-11-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 1125 would amend the Local Corrections Officers Training Act to require the course content of education and training programs for county corrections officers to include crisis response and behavioral health training. This training would have to be included in the course content within one year after the effective date of the bill.

The act requires *local corrections officers* to be certified by the Sheriffs Coordinating and Training Council in the Department of Corrections. The council must approve minimum standards and requirements for recruitment, selection, and certification of new officers; new employee and continuing training programs; and recertification and decertification processes.

Local corrections officer means a person employed by a county sheriff as a corrections officer in a county jail, work camp, or other facility maintained by a county that houses adult prisoners, as well as the supervisor or administrator of such an employee.

Currently, the course content approved by the council for the vocational certificate program, central training academy, and continuing training programs must include education and training on how to identify and manage prisoners with a mental illness.

The bill would eliminate this requirement and instead require that the course content include (within one year after the bill's effective date) crisis response and behavioral health training that strengthens the ability of a local corrections officer to identify mental health or substance use needs in individuals, safely address crisis situations, and understand diverse options.

The training required by the bill would have to meet all of the following:

- Be evidence-based and align with the large body of national research on de-escalation and responding to individuals with *behavioral health* needs.
- Provide the following information:
 - The reasons individuals with behavioral health needs should be diverted from criminal justice involvement.
 - How to recognize individuals with behavioral health needs.
 - How to safely and effectively respond to individuals with behavioral health needs.

- The best methods and available options to divert individuals with behavioral health needs from sustained criminal justice involvement.
- The best methods to connect individuals with behavioral health needs with local supportive services.

Behavioral health would mean mental health and substance use disorders and the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

The council would have to consult with the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and the Mental Health Diversion Council in approving the course content required by the bill.

MCL 791.538

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 1125 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and on local units of government. According to the Michigan Sheriffs' Coordinating and Training Council (MSCTC), provisions of the bill would create costs for the council that could not be absorbed by their current annual operating budget. According to MSCTC, funding would be needed for the following:

- To assist with collaboration, design, and implementation of a crisis response and behavioral training model for local corrections officers. This would require expertise from outside subject matter experts and result in an increase in independent contractor costs.
- For ensuring the specific, specialized training required under the bill is provided to all county corrections officers. This would require county involvement and, likely, would result in additional costs for MSCTC and for counties.
- For ongoing review and updates of training models.
- For data collection required under the bill. Likely, this would become the responsibility of the counties, resulting in additional costs for the counties.
- For design and implementation of tracking systems that would determine the rationale for diverting individuals with behavioral health issues from the criminal justice system, determine best methods and available options for diverting individuals with behavioral health issues, and connect individuals with behavioral health issues with local support services.

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