



DEPUTY SHERIFFS' TRAINING BULLETIN

Number 65

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

December 2002

DEPUTY SHERIFF TRAINEE SALARY REIMBURSEMENT INCREASED

The Governor has signed Act 184 of 2002, formerly House Bill 2456, which provides for 100% reimbursement to counties for the salaries deputy sheriffs attending basic training or continuing education schools. Current provisions related to the cost of training, full coverage for tuition, living, and travel expenses incurred by deputy sheriff's attending training, will remain unchanged. This increase becomes effective in February 2003 and will be reflected on reimbursement forms issued after that date.

BASIC TRAINING TO ADD 200 HOURS

On December 12, 2002 the Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the regulations of the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board, which include the expansion of the Deputy Sheriff's Basic Training Program from 560 hours to 760 hours. The regulations are presently before the Office of Attorney General for a final, 30-day review. Upon Attorney General approval, the PCCD will proceed to final publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, at which time the regulations become effective.

Given the timeframes for these final steps in the process and lead-time to prepare for the expanded course, the Board anticipates that the first 760-hour (19-week) basic training will begin on August 11, 2003 with the B-03-03 training class.

The increased hours will include the topics of Patrol Procedures and Operations, Motor Vehicle Code/Accident Investigation, D.U.I. Enforcement, Criminal Investigation, and Drug-Related Investigations. The Board is presently addressing the issue of the need or desire by sheriffs' offices to provide this training to previously certified deputies. This issue will be addressed in the near future. Please watch for a short-term training needs survey in January 2003, concerning this and other training issues. Please take the time to respond.

DEPUTY SHERIFFS' TRAINING FUND

Although the actions reported on the previous page are positive developments, these actions brought the Deputy Sheriffs' Training Account to the attention of the Governor's Budget Office, which is dealing with a deficit in the state budget. The Budget Office was specifically interested in the fact that the account had a projected \$7 million balance. While the PCCD was going through the various hearing and review processes, the Budget Office contacted the Office of State Treasurer and the PCCD with a reminder that Act 1984-2, Section 8(c), provides that:

"All moneys received by the treasurer in excess of the amount necessary to cover the costs and expenses of the training program shall be transferred from the special restricted receipts account to the General Fund of the Commonwealth on an annual basis with such reserve maintained as will be adequate to assure the continued operation of the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Program".

Initially, the Budget Office took the position that this meant all excess funds should revert to the General Fund. The PCCD argued the view that not only was the Board allowed to maintain necessary reserves but that it would not be prudent to consider removing any funds as the training program is pending expansion and reimbursements for salary will be increasing. The PCCD argument was partially successful.

While the Budget Office conceded that the Board does need to maintain necessary reserves, they felt those reserves would be adequate even after the surrender of \$2 million to the General Fund. This money was transferred from the Deputy Sheriffs' Training Account to the General Fund in early December 2002. The \$2 million transfer was included in a \$273 million spending freeze that was the main component of the overall effort to erase a projected 2002-03 \$433 million revenue shortfall to help ensure the state ends the fiscal year in balance.

The bottom line is that the PCCD and the Board had no decision in this matter. Act 1984-2 clearly instructs that all excess money in the fund beyond reserves necessary for the continued operation of the program is to be transferred to the General Fund. By way of historical perspective, this is the first time since 1984 that funds have been transferred from the account.

However, it is also important to note that the recent transfer does not preclude the Budget Office making similar requests and the Office of State Treasurer making additional transfers in the future. The PCCD's review of coming expenses concludes that this transfer will not affect the Board's ability to provide training nor will it impact on plans for expanded programs. In addition, it will not affect the Board's ability to increase reimbursements to counties under Act 184 of 2002.