

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2025

SENATE BILL

No. 385

Introduced by Senators Seyarto and Wahab

February 14, 2025

An act to amend Section ~~1031.4 of the Government Code~~, *13511.1 of the Penal Code*, relating to peace officers, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 385, as amended, Seyarto. Peace officers.

Existing law required the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, on or before June 1, 2023, in consultation with specified entities, to develop a modern policing degree program and to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement the program. Existing law establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training within the Department of Justice and requires the commission, within 2 years of the submission of the report, to approve and adopt the education criteria for peace officers, based on the recommendations in the report.

This bill would repeal the requirement for the commission to approve and adopt the criteria described above.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

~~Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to establish a certification program for specified peace officers, including officers of the Department of the California Highway Patrol. Existing law requires the commission to establish, among others, basic certificates for the purpose of fostering the education and experience necessary to perform general police service duties. Existing~~

~~law requires certificates to be awarded on the basis of a combination of training, education, experience, and other prerequisites, as determined by the commission.~~

~~Existing law requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with specified entities, to develop a modern policing degree program and to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature by no later than June 1, 2023, outlining a plan to implement the program.~~

~~Existing law requires peace officers in this state to meet specified minimum standards, including age and education requirements.~~

~~This bill would require a peace officer who is hired on or after January 1, 2029, to attain a modern policing degree, as specified, or a bachelor's or other advanced degree from an accredited college or university within 36 months of commencing their employment as a peace officer.~~

~~This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.~~

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. Section 13511.1 of the Penal Code is amended*
2 *to read:*

3 13511.1. (a) The commission, stakeholders from law
4 enforcement, including representatives of law enforcement
5 administration and law enforcement employees, the California
6 State University, including administration and faculty members,
7 and community organizations shall serve as advisors to the office
8 of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop
9 a modern policing degree program. By June 1, 2023, the office of
10 the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in
11 consultation with the stakeholders, shall submit a report on
12 recommendations to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement
13 this program. The recommendations in the report shall:

14 (1) Focus on courses pertinent to law enforcement, which shall
15 include, but not be limited to, psychology, communications,
16 history, ethnic studies, law, and those determined to develop
17 necessary critical thinking skills and emotional intelligence.

18 (2) Include allowances for prior law enforcement experience,
19 and appropriate work experience, postsecondary education

1 experience, or military experience to satisfy a portion of the
2 employment eligibility requirements.

3 (A) It is the intent of the Legislature that allowances for prior
4 experience in this paragraph for those with military experience
5 may be provided to those with military specializations pertinent
6 to law enforcement, including those specializations in community
7 relations, deescalation, foreign language translators, and those
8 determined to require necessary critical thinking skills and
9 emotional intelligence.

10 (B) It is the intent of the Legislature that allowances for prior
11 experience specified in this paragraph shall be granted to those of
12 good moral character, and shall not be granted to those with prior
13 sustained disciplinary actions taken against them, except that the
14 Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training may, after
15 considering the severity of the sustained misconduct or violation,
16 grant a partial allowance.

17 (3) Include both the modern policing degree program and
18 bachelor's degree in the discipline of their choosing as minimum
19 education requirements for employment as a peace officer.

20 (4) Include recommendations to adopt financial assistance for
21 students of historically underserved and disadvantaged
22 communities with barriers to higher education access that fulfill
23 the minimum education requirements to be adopted, pursuant to
24 this section, for employment as a peace officer.

25 (b) The report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
26 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
27 Code.

28 ~~(e) Within two years of the submission of the report to the~~
29 ~~Legislature, the commission shall approve and adopt the education~~
30 ~~criteria for peace officers, based on the recommendations in the~~
31 ~~report by the office of the Chancellor of the California Community~~
32 ~~Colleges in consultation with the stakeholders specified in~~
33 ~~subdivision (a).~~

34 *SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*
35 *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within*
36 *the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall*
37 *go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

38 *In order to alleviate pressure on law enforcement recruitment,*
39 *absent clarification on degree requirements, it is necessary for*
40 *this act to take effect immediately.*

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 1031.4 of the Government Code is~~
2 ~~amended to read:~~

3 ~~1031.4. (a) In addition to the standards in Section 1031, each~~
4 ~~person designated as a peace officer as described in Section 830.1~~
5 ~~of the Penal Code, with the exception of a person described in~~
6 ~~subdivision (c) of that section, Section 830.2 of the Penal Code,~~
7 ~~with the exception of a person described in subdivision (d) of that~~
8 ~~section, Section 830.3 of the Penal Code, Section 830.32 of the~~
9 ~~Penal Code, or Section 830.33 of the Penal Code, or any other~~
10 ~~peace officer employed by an agency that participates in the Peace~~
11 ~~Officer Standards and Training (POST) program shall be at least~~
12 ~~21 years of age at the time of appointment.~~

13 ~~(b) Subdivision (a) shall not apply to any person who, as of~~
14 ~~December 31, 2021, is currently enrolled in a basic academy or is~~
15 ~~employed as a peace officer by a public entity in California.~~

16 ~~(c) A peace officer specified in subdivision (a) who is hired as~~
17 ~~a peace officer by a public entity on or after January 1, 2029, shall~~
18 ~~attain one of the following degrees within 36 months of~~
19 ~~commencing their employment as a peace officer:~~

20 ~~(1) A modern policing degree, as described in subdivision (a)~~
21 ~~of Section 13511.1 of the Penal Code, from a California~~
22 ~~Community College.~~

23 ~~(2) A bachelor's degree or other advanced degree from an~~
24 ~~accredited college or university.~~

25 ~~(d) Subdivision (c) does not apply to any person who, as of~~
26 ~~December 31, 2028, is currently enrolled in a basic academy or~~
27 ~~was employed as a peace officer by a public entity in California.~~

28 ~~SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the~~
29 ~~immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within~~
30 ~~the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall~~
31 ~~go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:~~

32 ~~In order to assist community colleges that are in the process of~~
33 ~~developing a curriculum and avoid affecting law enforcement~~
34 ~~recruitment efforts, it is necessary for this act to take effect~~
35 ~~immediately.~~