

Chairman Klemin and the House Judiciary Committee, I am Jason Ziegler. I am currently the Chief of Police for the City of Mandan and a current sitting North Dakota P.O.S.T. Board member. I come before you as a law enforcement officer of almost 31 years and have also been a certified law enforcement trainer in two states.

I appear today in opposition as written to HB 1443.

I first want to state that I am for any training that will make our communities safer and law enforcement better equipped to serve them. I also want to thank the Bill sponsor for starting this necessary discussion.

My opposition as written to HB1443 is for the following reasons:

- POST Board is not designed to provide the training, the trainers or write the curriculum for courses. We are designed to review applicants for licenses, review request for funding, review curriculum for POST credits for recertification and to review adverse actions against licenses police officers. To add the responsibilities of providing annual training would require personnel to do so.
- With annual training will have a fiscal cost to every department which may require agencies to pay officers overtime to attend training.
 - There is a concern that a set curriculum across the state for law enforcement may be difficult do to resources vary from city to city and county to county based on location and financial abilities.
 - An annual 2hr Refresher may be more appropriate. For example Mandan PD subscribes to the Police One Academy which has a 2hr virtual course that would provide easy access to the training and the Officers would receive POST Credit for the training.
- 12-63-04.3.a.(2)&(3) which states peace officers understand and assist a victim of a bias based crime and provide instruction on the laws dealing with bias crimes and legal rights of and the remedies available to a victim of bias crime incidents. Law enforcement does this already under Marsy's Law.
- 12-63-04.3.a.(4) Illustrate proper techniques and methods to handle a bias crime incident in a non-combative manner. This implies that the police is combative when handling bias based crimes. I am not sure what the reason for this section is.
 - Each officer is held to the Peace Officers Code of Conduct (109-02-05-01.4.g.) which states: To engage in illegal harassment or intimidation of another individual, or to condone acts of illegal harassment or intimidation by other police officers.
- The bi-annual reporting seems redundant and agencies are already reporting all the requested information on our Uniformed Crime Reports annually.

In closing as I stated above I believe that this is a good starting point and it's important that law enforcement leadership work with the Bill's sponsor so that we can address making a Bill that will benefit our communities and give clear direction to law enforcement.