Prepared by the North Dakota Legislative Council staff for the Public Safety Committee
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PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD - EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 12-63-01.1 establishes the Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Board consisting of nine members, including the director of the Law Enforcement Training Center, six peace officers, one county government representative, and one city government representative. With the exception of the director of the Law Enforcement Training Center, all members are appointed by the Attorney General, serve staggered two-year terms, and may not serve more than three consecutive terms. The Attorney General appoints the chairman of the board.

Pursuant to NDCC Section 12-63-04, the P.O.S.T. Board is responsible for:

1. Prescribing the criteria for certification of peace officer training curriculum, instructors, and schools;
2. Certifying curriculum, instructors, schools, and officers that have met the training certification criteria;
3. Establishing the curriculum for peace officer training; and
4. Prescribing minimum standards of sidearm training and certification for peace officers before they carry a sidearm.

PEACE OFFICER LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to NDCC Section 12-63-06, an applicant for a license as a peace officer must file a written application provided by the P.O.S.T. Board showing to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant:

1. Is of good moral character.
2. Possesses a high school diploma or general educational development certificate.
3. Has had a complete background investigation.
4. Has passed a medical and psychological examination approved or prescribed by the board.
5. Has successfully completed a training program recognized by the board.
6. Has passed a written examination as established by the board or has arranged to take such an examination and is eligible for a limited license. A minimum score of 70 percent is necessary for successful completion of the licensing examination.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL-RELATED TRAINING

According to representatives of the P.O.S.T. Board, all peace officers are required to complete first aid and CPR training as part of their basic training. During the 1980s and early 1990s, peace officers were provided first responder training; however, the training was reduced to 16 hours of first aid and CPR training because of other training needs.

As part of the first aid and CPR training, peace officers learn proper emergency medical techniques for vital signs, fractures, wound care, and spinal injuries; proper first responder techniques for several injuries, illnesses, and medical conditions, such as animal bites, childbirth, seizures, gunshot wounds, heart attack, and stroke; and CPR techniques for adults and children. First aid and CPR certification is offered by private entities, such as the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, and National Safety Council and, therefore, certification training and recertification requirements vary by entity.

Persons certified as first responders typically render care to the sick or injured while an ambulance is en route. First responders are required to complete 40 hours of training and successfully complete a practical and written examination. The practical examination consists of at least one medical, one trauma, and one cardiopulmonary resuscitation station. A minimum score of 70 percent is required for the written examination. First responder certification is effective for a two-year period. Recertification requires successful completion of a 16-hour North Dakota first responder refresher course or a 24-hour emergency medical technician basic refresher course.

Currently, Highway Patrol troopers receive first responder training and are certified during their extended peace officer training. The troopers are recertified every two years in order to maintain the first responder certification.

PEACE OFFICER CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

North Dakota Century Code Section 12-63-11 provides that licensure as a peace officer expires every three years and is to be renewed upon payment of a renewal fee and by providing proof that the individual has met the requirements established by the board for continuing education. Peace officers are required to complete a minimum of 60 hours of P.O.S.T. Board-approved certified training every three years. According to a representative of the P.O.S.T. Board, peace officers are not required to complete emergency medical training or any other specific type of training. The agency employing the peace officers typically is primarily responsible for determining the type of continuing education training received by its peace officers. The P.O.S.T. Board maintains records of training hours and courses completed by peace officers for continuing education requirements but does not maintain records of certifications received by the peace officers.