

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 961*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/6/18

Short Title: Required Training Police Telecommunicators.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 21, 2018

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF POLICE
3 TELECOMMUNICATORS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 17E-7 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 17E-7. Required standards.**

7 (a) Justice officers, other than those set forth in subsection (c1) of this section, shall not
8 be required to meet any requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of this section as a condition of
9 continued employment, nor shall failure of a justice officer to fulfill such requirements make him
10 ineligible for any promotional examination for which he is otherwise eligible if the officer held
11 an appointment prior to July 1, 1983, and is a sworn law-enforcement officer with power of
12 arrest. The legislature finds, and it is hereby declared to be the policy of this Chapter, that such
13 officers have satisfied such requirements by their experience. It is the intent of the Chapter that
14 all justice officers employed at the entry level after the Commission has adopted the required
15 standards shall meet the requirements of this Chapter. All justice officers who are exempted from
16 the required entry level standards by this subsection are subject to the requirements of subsections
17 (b) and (c) of this section as well as the requirements of G.S. 17E-4(a) in order to retain
18 certification.

19 (b) The Commission shall provide, by regulation, that no person may be appointed as a
20 justice officer at entry level, except on a temporary or probationary basis, unless such person has
21 satisfactorily completed an initial preparatory program of training at a school certified by the
22 Commission or has been exempted from that requirement by the Commission pursuant to this
23 Chapter. Upon separation of a justice officer from a sheriff's department within the temporary or
24 probationary period of appointment, the probationary certification shall be terminated by the
25 Commission. Upon the reappointment to the same department or appointment to another
26 department of an officer who has separated from a department within the probationary period,
27 the officer shall be charged with the amount of time served during his initial appointment and
28 allowed the remainder of the probationary period to complete the basic training requirement.
29 Upon the reappointment to the same department or appointment to another department of an
30 officer who has separated from a department within the probationary period and who has
31 remained out of service for more than one year from the date of separation, the officer shall be
32 allowed another probationary period to complete such training as the Commission shall require
33 by rule for an officer returning to service.

34 (c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the Commission, by
35 rules and regulations, may fix other qualifications for the employment and retention of justice
36 officers including minimum age, education, physical and mental standards, citizenship, good



1 moral character, experience, and such other matters as relate to the competence and reliability of
2 persons to assume and discharge the responsibilities of the office, and the Commission shall
3 prescribe the means for presenting evidence of fulfillment of these requirements.

4 Where minimum educational standards are not met, yet the individual shows potential and a
5 willingness to achieve the standards by extra study, they may be waived by the Commission for
6 the reasonable amount of time it will take to achieve the standards required. Upon petition from
7 a sheriff, the Commission may grant a waiver of any provisions of this section (17E-7) for any
8 justice officer serving that sheriff.

9 (c1) Any justice officer appointed as a telecommunicator at the entry level after March 1,
10 1998, shall meet all requirements of this Chapter. Any person employed in the capacity of a
11 telecommunicator as defined by the Commission on or before March 1, 1998, shall not be
12 required to meet any entry-level requirements as a condition of continued employment but shall
13 be reported to the Commission for certification. All justice officers who are exempted from the
14 required entry-level standards by this subsection are subject to the requirements of subsections
15 (b) and (c) of this section as well as the requirements of G.S. 17E-4(a) in order to retain
16 certification.

17 (c2) Effective July 1, 2020, any person employed as a telecommunicator by a municipal
18 police agency shall meet all the requirements for telecommunicators as set forth in this Chapter.

19 (d) The Commission may issue a certificate evidencing satisfaction of the requirements
20 of subsections (b), (c), and (c1) of this section to any applicant who presents such evidence as
21 may be required by its rules and regulations of satisfactory completion of a program or course of
22 instruction in another jurisdiction."

23 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.