



**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

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**Division of Law Enforcement Services
Training and Standards Bureau**

March 20, 2020

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Dear Law Enforcement Administrators,

The Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) met yesterday afternoon via webinar to consider topics of importance to you and your officers. Some of you may receive this message more than once, and for that we apologize.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic training events and conferences that officers rely on to meet the annual recertification training requirement are being put on hold. In addition, academies are in the process of determining whether to suspend or continue with preparatory training academy classes already in progress. Wis. Stat. § 38.12(1) gives the technical college district boards exclusive control of their schools, and decisions to suspend training or to continue to offer training are being made by the individual technical college district boards. The LESB voted to direct staff to communicate with the Governor's office to seek an exemption from the Emergency Order for first responder academies. Staff requested the exemption yesterday, but the Governor's office has not yet responded.

Per Wisconsin statute, recruits may exercise law enforcement, jail, or secure juvenile detention powers during an original period of temporary or probationary employment that unless approved by the LESB may not exceed 12 months from a recruit's date of hire. In addition, preparatory training must be completed during the 12-month temporary or probationary employment period. Yesterday, the LESB extended the 12-month temporary or probationary employment period from date of hire, to 18 months from date of hire, for all recruits who are currently in the process of completing preparatory training, and/or in need of preparatory training completion, as well as for any recruits hired between now and the end of the calendar year, December 31, 2020.

In addition, the LESB approved options and guidelines to assist academies with continuing to deliver preparatory training during this unprecedented time. The options and guidelines will remain in place as long as COVID-19 directives limit students' time in a classroom setting. If you would like to see the options and guidelines, please let me know and I will send them to you.

Regarding annual recertification training, the LESB approved 24 hours of

recertification training for the current state fiscal year, FY20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), to be completed online via instructor-led or learner-led training. Annual recertification training is an important requirement for maintaining officer certification. Taking into consideration the guidelines put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the directives of Governor Evers (10 person limit on public gatherings), options to meet the annual recertification training requirement and the annual handgun qualification requirement should be considered so that all officers complete the annual recertification training requirement, and the annual handgun qualification requirement for law enforcement and tribal law enforcement officers, by June 30, 2020.

However, due to the extenuating circumstances first responders are now facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LESB will not penalize (decertify) officers who are unable to meet the annual recertification training requirement and/or the annual handgun qualification requirement for FY20. In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Justice will continue to reimburse law enforcement employers \$160 for each eligible primary certified officer for FY20 recertification training regardless of whether each eligible certified primary officer is able to complete annual recertification training or not.

The biennium for the vehicle pursuit training requirement began on July 1, 2019 and goes until June 30, 2021. At this time, the LESB has not considered an extension of the current biennium. All certified law enforcement and tribal law enforcement officers are expected to meet the current vehicle pursuit training requirement by June 30, 2021. If necessary, an extension of the current biennium may be considered by the LESB in the future.

Regarding instructor updates and instructor update completion, the LESB approved extensions of the certification expiration dates for instructors with certifications set to expire on September 1, 2020, December 1, 2020 or March 1, 2021, until December 1, 2021. These instructors will also have until December 1, 2021 to complete an instructor update.

Instructors with certifications set to expire on June 1, 2020, who were registered to attend an instructor update by June 2020, will also have their certifications extended until December 1, 2021 and have until December 1, 2021 to complete an instructor update.

All instructors impacted by the LESB's decision will be contacted by the Training and Standards Bureau by the end of next week.

In addition, the Training and Standards Bureau is working to provide you with COVID-19 resources. You can access these resources via Wilenet. There is a link on the secure homepage titled: "COVID-19 (Coronavirus) resources." You can also sign-up for an email list if interested. I know some of you watched or listened to the webinar offered by the CDC yesterday through the National Police Foundation. On the following webpage: <https://www.policefoundation.org/covid-19/>, the National

Police Foundation has included a recorded version of the COVID-19 Briefing for Law Enforcement, including the PowerPoint presentation used. The page also features resources from the CDC and other trusted organizations, and it includes a surveillance dashboard with information on the virus in the United States.

Thank you for all you do to keep Wisconsin safe. Please take care of yourselves and your officers. As always, reach out if we can do anything to assist you. Although the members of the bureau are all working from home now, we intend to continue to provide you with the same level of service you are accustomed to.

Sincerely,



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