

Pennsylvania State Police Testimony
Act 23 of 2015
Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee
March 25, 2019



Presented by:
Major Troy S. Lokhaiser
Pennsylvania State Police

Good morning Chairmen Regan and Williams and members of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. I am Major Troy Lokhaiser of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC). Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to address the impact of Act 23 on Pennsylvania's veterans.

Act 23 requires agencies to take into consideration a service member's military education, training, and service experience when granting or renewing their certification. MPOETC currently evaluates individual applicants, and where appropriate, provides "partial waivers" of required Act 120 Municipal police officer basic training for veterans with prior military police service. Approval of the partial waiver is determined on a case-by-case basis. It should be noted these veterans are still required by Act 120 and its regulations to complete all additional requirements, such as physical, psychological, or background testing to be certified as an Act 120 police officer. MPOETC regulations also provide for the granting of a "waiver" of yearly mandatory training requirements for certified Act 120 officers who are called to military service and unable to fulfill the training requirements.

MPOETC does not currently provide for the ability to obtain a training waiver for veterans seeking Act 235 Lethal Weapons certification. If legislation containing language similar to last session's Senate Bill 1040 is passed, PSP/MPOETC could further explore the possibility of waiving the firearms portion of the Act 235 training if a veteran provides documentation of an applicable comparable firearm qualification. As required by Act 23,

renewal of certification under Act 235 is granted to military personnel whose certification expired while on duty and renewal is requested within one year of discharge from service.

In addition, if this proposed piece of legislation is enacted, the workload impact on PSP/MPOETC would likely be minimal and would consist of compiling and submitting a report to the General Assembly per section (d) of the proposed legislation as well as developing a waiver policy for the Act 235 firearms portion of the training.

In closing, PSP and MPOETC believes the nation owes our military veterans a debt of gratitude and we are supportive in finding ways to ensure a smooth transition back to civilian life in Pennsylvania's workforce.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you, and I will be glad to answer any questions.