

HB 2936 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to investigate potential recruit's character, including psychiatric evaluation, racial bias and sympathy test, investigation into the recruit's financial dealings, and interviews of at least three references. Prohibits officers from participating in white supremacist or militant groups and overt or explicit expressions of racism. Applies to both police officer and reserve officers. Directs Bureau of Labor and Industries to establish and maintain a hotline for reports of misconduct by law enforcement officers. Requires Governor to convene task force to develop a plan for removing peace officers who have discriminatory sentiments that would violate the rights of protected classes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Before attending the basic policing training at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), recruits must be hired by a law enforcement agency. The agency subjects the recruit to background checks, psychological checks, and physical minimum checks as part of the employment process.

House Bill 2936 requires the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to prohibit police and reserve officers from participating in white supremacist or militant groups and overt or explicit expressions of racism. It requires a law enforcement agency that obtains evidence that an officer engaged in racist behavior to provide that evidence to the appropriate district attorney within 14 days of obtaining the evidence. The measure also requires DPSST to investigate a potential police or reserve officer's character. Investigation must include psychiatric evaluation, racial bias and sympathy test, investigation of the person's financial dealings, and interviewing at least three references. The measure directs the Bureau of Labor and Industries to establish and maintain a hotline for reports of misconduct by law enforcement officers. Finally, the measure requires the Governor to convene a task force to develop a plan for removing peace officers who have discriminatory sentiments that would violate the rights of protected classes.