

SB 41 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that certification of employee of State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision will not lapse if employee annually completes at least 20 hours of approved continuing education and certification has not been suspended or revoked. Specifies that certain categories of certified employees of State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision remain full-time public safety officers subject to suspension and revocation of certification by Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Expiration of public safety certification
- Redundancy of certification requirements for returning employees
- Comparison with certification expiration in other professional fields
- Broader impact on public safety professionals certified by DPSST

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Modifies definition of "parole and probation officer" to include certified full-time officers who are employed by the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) issues certifications for public safety professions such as police officer, certified reserve officer, corrections officer, parole and probation officer, fire service professional, telecommunicator, and emergency medical dispatcher. Under current law, if a person who holds one of these certifications is not directly working in the profession for which they are certified, that person's certification will lapse after three months and expire after five years.

According to the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, a person certified by DPSST who is hired by the Board is subject to this lapse in certification, which may deter experienced public safety professionals from seeking employment with the Board. Senate Bill 41 removes the lapse in certification on the condition that employees of the Board complete at least 20 hours of continuing education approved by DPSST each year. It also specifies that employees of the Board will remain classified as full-time public safety officers whose certifications may be revoked or suspended by DPSST.

Senate Bill 41 prohibits the certifications of individuals who are employed by the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision from lapsing if the employee annually completes at least 20 hours of approved continuing education. It specifies that employees of the Board remain classified as full-time public safety officers subject to suspension and revocation of their certifications by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. Declares emergency, effective on passage.