

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 15: Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Basic Police Course Pilot Program

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Evans

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report on a safety plan and recruitment update for the 60-student Basic Police Course pilot program operated by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

The Department's 2023-25 budget provides funding and position authority to operate three 60-student Basic Police Courses, to begin in November and December of 2023, and January 2024. These are in addition to -- and will operate similarly as -- the standard 40-student courses that will run concurrently with this pilot program. The Department has filled 17 of the 19 positions provided for this program.

The Department's report outlined the importance of in-place safety standards, instructor training, and the instructor-to-student ratios that help decrease risk. The Department also emphasized that these pilot courses will be subdivided into smaller cohorts so that higher risk training areas, like the firing range, will maintain the same number of students and instructors as standard classes to ensure that all safety protocols are met.

This is the first of three reports that are required by a budget note. The next report will be a status update on the pilot program during the February 2024 session.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.