

**Vermont Department of Public Safety
Law Enforcement Advisory Board
Business Plan**

PURPOSE – What is our purpose?

As defined in the 24 V.S.A. § 1939 and by the members of the Law Enforcement Advisory Board the mission of the group is as follows;

To advise and report to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, the General Assembly on issues that affect the cooperation and coordination of more than one law enforcement agency.

GOAL – What are we working towards?

Given monies available, the Board shall review *policies* and *practices* in an effort of developing a *comprehensive approach* to providing the best policing services to Vermonters.

The Board shall also provide *educational resources* to Vermonters about public safety challenges in the state.

The Board shall develop *policies and recommendations* for law enforcement priority needs.

TASKS – What should the Board review?

Statutorily mentioned tasks include;

- Retirement benefits,
- Recruitment of officers,
- training needs,
- homeland security issues,
- dispatching, and
- Comprehensive drug enforcement.

Other tasks deemed important by the Board should also be reviewed. It is expected that issues or tasks may arise at any time and may be brought before the Board for resolution.

OUTCOMES – What are we going to produce?

The Board shall hold a formal review process to meet the above goals and tasks. A *report* shall be produced in brief summary to the General Assembly and Governor annually by January 15th. A *formal review process* shall include testimony from interested parties, if deemed necessary by the Board, or a thorough discussion of the issues/tasks followed by a recommendation made and voted on by the Board.

ORGANIZATION– What is the make up of the Board and how does it operate?

The Board is made up of the following;

- Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Director of the Vermont State Police (VSP)
- Director of the DPS/ Division of Criminal Justice Services (CJS)
- A member of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police appointed by the president.
- A member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association appointed by the president
- A representative from the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT) appointed by the Executive Director.
- A member of the Vermont Police Association appointed by the president.
- The Attorney General or his/her designee.
- A state's attorney appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs.
- The U.S. Attorney or his/her designee.
- The Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC).
- The Defender General or his/her designee.

The Board shall elect a chair and vice-chair who will serve for two years.

A quorum shall consist of 6 members.

Decisions of the Board shall require a majority vote.

Action Plan for 2004-2005

The Board shall meet three (4) times in 2004 and a minimum of six (6) times in 2005.

The Board shall begin discussing the following issues with the outcome being to document the issue and offer recommendations to help solve the problem. These issues are in priority order.

1. Datamaster Infrared Replacement – Machines need replacement
2. Loss of Federal Funding and its impact on law enforcement.
3. Rural Law Enforcement issues
4. Police officer recruitment, retention and retirement.
5. Adequate Funding levels for the Vermont Police Academy – Basic training costs.
6. Law Enforcement Information sharing – bringing disparate systems together.
7. Prison Overcrowding – What is the impact?
8. Dispatching Issues and costs
9. Criminal Justice Integration System (CJIS) – Development
10. Computer Crimes and Statewide computer forensics.
11. In car camera use – mandatory policy
12. Vermont Forensic Lab – the need to maintain accreditation.
13. Other issues of importance that are brought to our attention