

**Vermont Department of Public Safety
Law Enforcement Advisory Board
Business Plan
2005**

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.
- One employee-representative of the Vermont state police, appointed by the director of the Vermont state employees' association.

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 2005-2006

The Board shall meet 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. Police officer recruitment, retention and retirement.
 - *Conduct a comprehensive statewide study of police officer retention.*
A contractor will be hired to conduct the study which will include a follow up of the 1990 study, a study of all levels of law enforcement in the state.

TASKS

Develop and RFP and execute a contract with a consultant for the study.

Work, as necessary, with the consultant to meet the objectives and scope of work outlined in the contract.

2. Rural Law Enforcement issues
 - *Review the state police coverage and state and local public safety relationships in other states such as New Hampshire and Connecticut, including a review of models that require communities with over 3,500 in population to provide or pay for their law enforcement.*
 - *Develop ideas for several pilot projects that use local law enforcement to enhance day-to-day coverage and free the state police to focus on its mission and statewide responsibilities.*
 - *Recommendation shall be submitted to the House and Senate committees on Judiciary and Appropriations as part of the Department of Public Safety's annual budget submission.*
 - *These recommendations will be made to the Commissioner who will include them in the FY 07 budget.*

TASKS

A white paper or other easily read document will be produced that can be distributed to municipalities illustrating the available options they have to increase police coverage in the jurisdiction.

DPS will develop a list a list of the duties of the department of public safety that cover the entire state such as the crime lab, special investigations, and the mission and duties of the state police and present it to the LEAB for comment.

The Vermont State Police will be asked to review the state police coverage and state and local public safety relationships in other states such as New Hampshire and Connecticut, including a review of models that require communities with over 3,500 in population to provide or pay for their law enforcement and present their findings to the LEAB. The LEAB will determine what other information will be needed to further the study mentioned above.

The LEAB will take testimony from interested parties in an effort to develop ideas for several pilot projects that use local law enforcement to enhance day-to-day coverage and free the state police to focus on its mission and statewide responsibilities and submit these recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Safety.

3. Statewide public safety communications system
 - *Review study and include comments and recommendations in the 2005 annual report.*
4. Dispatching Issues and costs
 - *Review the communications study being conducted and include comments in the 2005 annual report.*

TASKS

Ensure the LEAB receives copies of the study being conducted for both a new statewide communications system and dispatching and that the LEAB offers comments regarding the report and the project.

Review the E 9-1-1 experience.

5. Law Enforcement Information sharing – bringing disparate systems together and general IT issues.
 - *Participate in the DPS/CJS IT needs assessment and include comments on the outcome in the 2005 annual report.*

TASKS

The Chair will assign two members to participate in the development of the IT needs assessment process. LEAB shall be briefed as necessary to ensure that the group has input and offers guidance on the future of information technology in statewide law enforcement.

The final needs assessment shall be vetted through the LEAB for comment and inclusion in the boards annual report.

6. Racial Profiling/Bias in Policing policy development and recommendation.
7. Loss of Federal Funding and its impact on law enforcement.
8. Criminal Justice Integration System (CJIS) – Development
9. Vermont Forensic Lab – the need to maintain accreditation.
10. Datamaster Replacement Program.
11. Other issues of importance that are brought to our attention