

## *Facts About the*

# **Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission *and* the Director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety**

Chapter 590 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri established within the department of public safety a "Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission" composed of eleven members, including a voting public member, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. Annually, the director shall appoint one of the POST Commission members as chairperson. The POST Commission shall meet at least twice each year.

The POST Commission members are Platte County Sheriff Mark Owen (Chairperson), Springfield Police Chief Paul F. Williams, Lincoln University Police Chief Gary L. Hill, Jefferson County Sheriff David L. Marshak, Missouri State Highway Patrol Captain Benjamin C. Jones, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Detective Edward Clark, Law Enforcement Training Institute Training Center Director John Worden, and Public Member Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III.

The Director of Public Safety is Sandra K. Karsten.

Chapter 590 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri divides responsibility for peace officer standards and training between the **POST Commission** and the **Director of the Department of Public Safety**.

- The **POST Commission** is responsible for:
  - Establishing minimum standards for the basic training of peace officers.
  - Establishing a procedure for the relicensing of peace officers whose licenses have expired.
  - Setting the minimum number of hours of basic training for peace officers.
  - Providing for the recognition of basic training received at law enforcement training centers of other states, the military, the federal government, and territories of the United States.
  - Establishing requirements for the continuing education of peace officers.
  - Administering the Peace Officer Standards and Training Fund
  - Guiding and advising the Director concerning peace officer standards and training.
  
- The **Director of the Department of Public Safety** is responsible for:
  - Establishing a classification system for peace officer licenses.
  - Establishing minimum age, citizenship, and general education requirements for peace officers.
  - Adopting or developing a Missouri Peace Officer License Exam (MPOLE).
  - Providing for the licensing of peace officers possessing credentials from other states or jurisdictions.
  - Establishing a procedure to obtain a peace officer license.
  - Licensing and regulating peace officers.
  - Licensing and regulating continuing education providers.
  - Licensing and regulating training instructors and training centers.
  - Establishing minimum standards for admittance into a basic training course.
  - Promulgating rules pursuant to Chapter 590, RSMo.
  
- The Director has established a **POST Program** within the Office of the Director to assist in the implementation of Chapter 590, RSMo. The POST Program shall:
  - Provide administrative support to the POST Commission; and
  - Serve as an agent and representative of the Director designated to carry out responsibilities relating to peace officer standards and training pursuant to section 590.010(2), RSMo.

## **POST Commission Fund**

The POST Commission is responsible for administering the POST Commission Fund. This fund provides financial assistance to county and municipal agencies for the training of their law enforcement officers and personnel. To be eligible to receive financial assistance from this fund, the political subdivision must collect an additional \$1 of court fees, with these fees being forwarded to the Department of Revenue and credited to the POST Commission fund. Law enforcement agencies that fail to file their annual Vehicle Stops Report to the Office of the Attorney General are not eligible to receive POST Commission Funds. The POST Commission Fund disbursement in 2017 was \$866,394.99, in 2018 it was \$791,789.18, and in 2019 it was \$767,684.31. As of July 31, 2020, the POST Commission fund stands at \$713,333.56, but the fund will continue to increase each month until funds are distributed at the end of September 2020.

## **Peace Officer Discipline**

In 2019, the following disciplinary actions were taken by the Director of Public Safety:

13 Licenses Permanently Revoked

33 Licenses Permanently Surrendered

9 Licenses Suspended

24 Licenses Probated

89 Letters of Reprimand

## **International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) – National Decertification Index (NDI)**

The purpose of the NDI is to serve as a national registry of certificate or license revocation actions relating to officer misconduct. Prior to the issuance of the peace officer license, the POST Program searches the NDI to determine if an applicant has had his or her peace officer certification or license revoked in another state. All Missouri peace officer license revocations and permanent license surrenders are entered into the NDI. As of August 4, 2020, the NDI contains 28,532 actions reported by 45 certifying or licensing agencies.

## **Missouri Peace Officer Complaint Process**

A person can file a complaint against a peace officer that has committed a violation of section 590.080.1, RSMo, by going to the POST Program's website at [www.dps.mo.gov/POST](http://www.dps.mo.gov/POST). The POST Program is not a law enforcement agency and we often rely upon completed criminal and internal agency investigations to determine if an officer has committed an offense that allows the Director of Public Safety to discipline the officer's license.

## **State Database on Disciplined Officers**

The POST Program maintains a state database of all licensed peace officers. This database includes any prior disciplinary action taken by the Director of Public Safety against an officer and all employment records submitted by an officer's former employing or commissioning law enforcement agency. With a background waiver signed by the officer, this information will be made available to any hiring law enforcement agency.

## **Publicly Available Information**

Pursuant to section 590.180.2, RSMo, the publicly available information on an officer includes the officer's name, licensure status, and commissioning or employing law enforcement agency, if any.