



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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*Short Summary in Response to House Resolution 620 of 2019
Police Powers to Make Arrests, Carry Firearms,
and Other Enforcement Authorizations in Pennsylvania*

In response to House Resolution No. 620 (Session of 2019), the Joint State Government Commission prepared a comprehensive review of law enforcement officers and individuals throughout the Commonwealth who retain arrest authority or other police powers. Specifically, the report examines the historical background, legal authority, appointing authority (if any), hiring qualifications, in-service training requirements, duties, scope of authority, jurisdiction, right to carry firearms, and the training requirements of each officer or individual. To the extent that such information was available, the report also provides employment and service numbers and trends for each category for the past five years.

In addition, the report provides recommendations as to whether certain categories of law enforcement are obsolete and their enabling statutes in need of repeal or possible consolidation with other existing categories. Moreover, the report proposes legislative amendments consolidating certain law enforcement categories and their respective free-standing statutes into a more organized addition to Titles 22 (Detectives and Private Police) and 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. The primary objectives behind the proposed legislative amendments were to consolidate similarly-situated law enforcement categories into more streamlined chapters and to modernize the language and update the statutory cross-references within the provisions for each.

To prepare this report, Commission staff reviewed Pennsylvania statutory law, case law, and regulations, along with academic journals, articles, agency publications and reports, and state government websites. To collect employment and service data for each of the categories within the scope of the resolution, Commission staff consulted the governing agencies/departments themselves or any recent agency/department reports covering employment figures. In addition, Commission staff consulted resources such as Pennsylvania's Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

The full report is available on our website <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>