

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 992 (Irwin)

As Amended September 3, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires a peace officer to obtain either an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, modern policing degree, or professional policing certificate no later than 36 months after receiving their basic certificate from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

Senate Amendments

- 1) Specify that notwithstanding the peace officer minimum education requirements required by this bill, a person who is either of the following shall attain one or more of the specified degrees or certificates no later than 48 months after receiving their basic certificate by POST:
 - a) An individual with experience as a sworn peace officer from another state who served as a peace officer for less than eight years and with a separation in good standing.
 - b) An individual with experience serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who served for less than eight years and with an honorable discharge if their military service has concluded.
- 2) Increase the amount of Armed Forces and out-of-state sworn peace officer experience that is sufficient to exempt a peace officer from the minimum education standards proposed by this bill from two years to eight years.
- 3) Authorize coursework completed as part of military or law enforcement training that is within the curriculum of a modern policing degree or professional policing certificate by an individual during prior employment in the military or in law enforcement in another state to count toward a modern policing degree or a professional policing certificate.
- 4) Clarify that coursework completed as part of the commission-certified academy shall not solely satisfy the unit requirement for a professional policing certificate.
- 5) Exempt peace officers employed by the State Department of State Hospitals from the requirements of the bill.
- 6) Add, for purposes of peace officer minimum education standards, that a foreign college or university degree may be evaluated for equivalency by a credential evaluation service holding membership in the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or the Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. (AICE).
- 7) Delete this bill's creation of a Statewide Law Enforcement Recruitment Task Force with the goal of identifying and recruiting candidates for law enforcement agencies.
- 8) Make technical and clarifying changes.

COMMENTS

As passed by the Assembly: This bill required specified peace officers to attain an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, modern policing degree, professional policing certificate, or specified law enforcement or military experience, within 36 months of receiving their basic certificate from POST.

Major Provisions:

- 1) Required, commencing January 1, 2031, each state officer and employee designated as a peace officer, as specified, or any other peace officer employed by an agency that participates in the POST program to attain one or more of the following degrees, experiences, or certificates, within 36 months of receiving their basic certificate by POST:
 - a) An associate's degree from a community college, accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
 - b) A bachelor's degree or other advanced degree from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education
 - c) A modern policing degree, which shall meet all of the following criteria:
 - i) Require at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of degree-applicable credit coursework, from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
 - ii) Award credits for required commission-certified academy course instruction.
 - iii) Offer courses that include, but are not limited to, the following list of subjects: Communications, Psychology, Writing, Ethics, and Criminal Justice.
 - d) A professional policing certificate, which may be offered by any accredited college or university, and shall meet all of the following criteria:
 - i) Require at least 16 or more semester units or 24 or more quarter units of degree-applicable credit coursework, from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
 - ii) Offer courses that include, but are not limited to, the following list of subjects: Communications, Psychology, Writing, Ethics, and Criminal Justice.
 - e) At least two years of military experience in good standing, with an honorable discharge if military service has concluded.
 - f) At least two years of law enforcement experience from another state, with separation in good standing.
- 2) Authorized coursework completed as part of the commission-certified academy to count towards the modern policing degree and professional policing certificate and may count toward any associate degree or bachelor's degree. Coursework completed as part of the

commission-certified academy cannot count towards the entirety of the units required for a professional policing certificate.

- 3) Exempted from the above requirements any person who, as of December 31, 2030, is currently enrolled in a basic academy or is employed as a peace officer by a public entity in California.
- 4) Removed the requirement that POST approve and adopt education criteria for peace officers, based on, and within two years of, the office of the Chancellor of the Community Colleges (OCCC) submitting a report to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement a modern policing degree program.
- 5) Established the Statewide Law Enforcement Recruitment Task Force, with the goal of identifying and recruiting candidates for law enforcement agencies, which shall be comprised of management and rank and file representatives from county sheriff departments, municipal police agencies, the Department of the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and other law enforcement organizations.

According to the Author

"Public safety is core to Californians' quality of life, so ensuring we have peace officers who have completed thorough preparation is of critical importance. The Legislature must act on our prior direction to the law enforcement and higher education community by putting into statute several pathways for peace officers to demonstrate their preparation, so that we all can realize the benefits of a modern police force throughout California."

Arguments in Support

According to the *Peace Officers' Research Association of California*, "AB 992 builds upon the work of a legislatively directed working group that, in 2023, provided recommendations for creating a modern policing degree. Rather than relying on a single path, this bill expands the approach by offering multiple higher education options that reflect the diverse experiences and strengths of future law enforcement professionals. These include associate's degrees, professional certificates, prior military service, and other relevant credentials.

"AB 992 refines the previous framework by allowing greater flexibility in how education requirements can be met, rather than requiring a specific degree program to be approved by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). This change creates a more realistic and adaptable structure for officer education and recruitment.

"The bill also establishes a statewide task force to support recruitment efforts and encourage broader access to law enforcement careers across California's communities. PORAC believes AB 992 is a thoughtful and balanced approach that supports the continued advancement of our profession, while keeping pathways to service open and attainable for individuals from all backgrounds. Providing officers with strong educational foundations—without imposing unnecessary barriers—will help strengthen both public safety and community trust."

Arguments in Opposition

None received.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) Unknown, potentially significant costs (General Fund, local funds) to state and local law enforcement agencies to update hiring policies relating to the minimum qualification for peace officers, and to expand pay or benefits relating to additional educational requirements. Local costs to comply with this measure may be subject to reimbursement by the state if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this bill imposes a state-mandated local program.
- 2) Unknown, potentially significant costs (Proposition 98, General Fund) to the extent that the bill results in an additional students enrolled in community colleges each year. Colleges are also likely to incur unknown potential costs to offer modern policing degree programs, including hiring faculty and curriculum development.

VOTES:**ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 9-0-0**

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Sanchez, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0-10

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Castillo, Jeff Gonzalez, Hart, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Stefani

UPDATED

VERSION: June 26, 2025

CONSULTANT: Ilan Zur / PUB. S. / (916) 319-3744

FN: 0001933