



Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

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Bulletin: No. 2015-02

Subject: **FY 2015-16 PROPOSED BUDGET**

On January 9, 2015, the Governor released his proposed state budget for FY 2015-16. As it relates to POST, the Administration is proposing two strategies to address the insufficient funds available in the Peace Officer Training Fund (POTF). The POTF is funded by the State Penalty Fund which receives its revenue from assessments on specified fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed and collected by the courts and counties. Annual revenue into the POTF has steadily fallen from \$55.8 million to \$42.6 million between FY 2007-08 and FY 2014-15.

The first strategy proposed is an 18-month outstanding debt amnesty program that would authorize those individuals with past due court-ordered debt prior to January 1, 2013, to pay the delinquent debt at a 50% reduction. The Administration is projecting revenue into the POTF to increase by \$10 million due to this amnesty program. The second proposal would reduce a portion of POST's budget by \$5.3 million in FY 2015-16. This decrease includes a 30% reduction in POST's authorized positions. Currently, POST has 123 authorized positions. The FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget decreases the authorized positions to 86.

To the extent the proposed reduction ultimately eliminates positions, there would be significant decreases in POST's training programs and services. The potential impact to law enforcement agencies is the lowering of selection and training standards due to an inability to direct sufficient resources to effectively manage and audit the regional training needs of 605 law enforcement agencies and over 90,000 law enforcement personnel in a current environment that is demanding more training for law enforcement.

At this time, details about the \$5.3 million reduction are limited, and more information will be forthcoming. POST is working closely with the Department of Finance as the budget process continues. All efforts will be made to ensure fiscal responsibility and cost savings while maintaining critical, high-quality training programs and reimbursements to California law enforcement.

Questions about the FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget may be directed to Assistant Executive Director Stephanie Scofield at (916) 227-2809 or stephanie.scofield@post.ca.gov.

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