

SENATE BILL SB-78

Introduced by Senator Sasha Renee Perez (D-25)

An act relating to Peace Officer Screening Act .

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-78, Sasha Renee Perez (D-25). Peace Officer Screening Act .

Existing law requires minimum qualifications for peace officers such as good moral judgment/character, that is determined through a background check investigating physical, emotional and mental conditions that may affect a peace officers duties. Existing law also provides screenings for bias against sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

This bill would add an additional requirement of repeated screenings. These screenings are to be conducted on a quarterly basis or as needed. Any and all peace officers within any given district shall be required to undergo updated moral, physical, mental and emotional screenings. Updated screenings can be completed with the same health professionals that conducted the assessment at the time of hiring.

Local law enforcement agencies will not be strained with the costs of the additional screenings as local agencies are reimbursed by the state as per the California Constitution.

Vote: Majority. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** yes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 13510 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

(a) For the purpose of raising the level of competence of local law enforcement officers, the commission shall adopt starting January 1, 2027 and may from time to time amend, rules establishing and upholding ~~minimum~~ *maximum* standards relating to physical, mental, and moral fitness, *that is to be consistently reevaluated to ensure an officers mental standing has not faltered over time*, that shall govern the recruitment of any city police officers, peace officer members of a county sheriff's office, marshals or deputy marshals, peace officer members of a county coroner's office notwithstanding Section 13526, reserve officers, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 830.6, police officers of a district authorized by statute to maintain a police department.

SECTION 2. Section 1031 of the Government Code is amended to read:

- (a) Be legally authorized to work in the United States under Federal Law
- (b) Be 18 years of age or older
- (c) Be fingerprinted for purposes of searching local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose a criminal record.
- ~~(d) Be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation.~~
- (d) Be of good moral character, as determined through repeated psychological evaluations.*