

Public Safety Officers Standards and Training Bureau (POST)



POST Council submitted two bills for the 2023 Legislative Session. Both bills have passed the Senate and House and are anticipated to be signed by the governor.

HB77 amended section 44-4-404, clarified that all public safety officers may apply for a 180 extension to complete the minimum training standards. The applications must explain the circumstances that make the extension necessary, effective on passage and approval.

HB78 amended section 44-4-404, if a public safety officer is ordered to state or federal military duty and has not completed the minimum training standards within 1 year of the officer's hire date the public safety officer's time to complete the minimum training standards must be stayed, effective on passage and approval and applies retroactively on or after July 1, 2022.

POST Bureau consists of a Bureau Chief, Paralegal/Investigator, Investigator, Executive Assistant, and an Administrative Assistant. In July, Eric Gilbertson stepped down as the POST Bureau Chief and returned to Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy. Timothy Allred was hired in September as the POST Bureau Chief.



Left to right:

Glen Stinar,
Timothy Allred,
Brooke Standish,
Katrina Bolger,
Tina Cranmer

– POST photo

Timothy served ten years with the Montana Department of Corrections, first as a Probation and Parole Officer and later as Operations Program Manager, coordinating training and logistics. He also has five years of experience working for the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole where he started as a Parole Analyst and was eventually promoted to Executive Director. Since his hire, he has reached out to agency heads across the state to introduce himself as time allows.

Also in July, Mary Ann Keune retired after serving nine years as the POST Executive Assistant, handing the reins over to Brooke Standish.

Brooke Standish previously worked in the medical field as a Certified Nursing Assistant for ten years and as an Optician for thirteen years. She decided to open her own business and worked for six years as a Medical Billing and Coding Specialist for an independent Optometrist in Helena. Before she came to POST, she was working at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy as an Administrative Assistant.

POST staff continues to process a heavy caseload of training records, allegations, and certifications while remaining responsive to the POST Council and stakeholders. The Council meets four times a year and conducts special committee meetings as necessary. There are five Council committees; the Case Status Committee meets every six weeks; the remainder of the committees meet as necessary.

POST staff continues to digitally archive active/inactive officer files, trainings, and certificates to reduce paperwork. POST has recently started issuing certificates via email. This has helped to speed up the process and get public safety officers their certificates in a timelier manner. POST is striving to become paperless by conducting business through email and electronic storage. POST is going through all public safety officer files and training files making sure everything is scanned into a digital copy and then shredding the paper files.

In 2022, POST was provided a conference room for meetings, interviews, hearings, and conferences. We are in the process of getting video conferencing set up to make it more convenient for business purposes for the staff and Council members.

POST Council certifies public safety officers in the following disciplines:






- **Peace Officer**
- **Detention/Correction Officer**
- **Public Safety Communication Officer**
- **Coroner**
- **Reserve Officer**
- **Probation & Parole Officer**
- **Misdemeanor Probation/Pretrial Service Officer**












POST Staff presents a 1-to-1.5-hour training to every basic academy class, except for Coroner Basic. The team addressed 19 classes of 454 students from Law Enforcement, Correction/Detention, Probation & Parole, and Public Safety Communicator Basics. In addition, POST gives a briefing at the legal equivalency for peace officers and correction/detention officers. The presentation explains the laws that govern POST, the relationship between the officer and the Council, noting that the POST certificates issued belong to the Council which allows the officer to work in public safety. The students are also advised of the difference between employer discipline and POST sanctions on their certificates. The goal of these

presentations is to convey the importance of protecting their communities with integrity and abiding by the code of ethics adopted by the POST Council.

Equivalency is an important opportunity for agencies to hire officers who have attended academies in other jurisdictions. Officers who are granted equivalency do not have to attend the full basic academy in the state of Montana. This helps agencies with cost and staffing concerns related to sending officers to a full basic training. Each of these officers' education, training, and experience are reviewed and investigated by POST to determine whether the officer meets the minimum standards for Montana POST Basic Certification.

2022 Meetings & Statistics

-  **Council Meetings: 4 meetings**
-  **ARM Committee: 2 meetings**
-  **Business Plan/Policy Committee: 1 meeting**
-  **Case Status Committee: 9 meetings**
-  **Curriculum Review Committee: 1 meeting**

-  **Certificates issued: 1,082**
-  **Courses approved: 2,096 adding 119,651 hours of training to 8,025 officers' training transcripts**
-  **Equivalency Granted: 99**
-  **Extensions Granted: 48**
-  **Allegations received: 123**
-  **Cases Opened: 56**
-  **Cases Closed: 34**
-  **Suspensions: 8**
-  **Revocation: 14**
-  **Voluntary Surrenders: 1**
-  **Requested Hearing: 3**

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING – POST

Mission Statement

To ensure competency and promote quality performance by public safety officers by establishing, maintaining, and promoting excellence in standards and training.

Vision Statement

The public is safe, secure, and has confidence in and respect for Montana Public Safety Officers.

SINCE 2017

- 67% INCREASE IN TRAINING HOURS
- 1,188% INCREASE IN EQUIVALENCY REQUESTS
- 149% INCREASE IN COMPLAINTS
- 74% INCREASE IN INVESTIGATIONS
- 248% INCREASE IN INFORMATION REQUESTS

