

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 979**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Weber**

February 22, 2013

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An act to add Section 13518.5 to the Penal Code, relating to peace officers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 979, as introduced, Weber. Peace officers: Maritime Peace Officer Standards Training Act of 2013.

Existing law establishes in the Department of Justice the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Existing law requires the commission to adopt, and authorizes the commission to amend, rules establishing minimum standards relating to physical, mental, and moral fitness that govern the recruitment of various peace officers, including city police officers and peace officer members of a county sheriff's office. Existing law also requires the commission to carry out various duties related to peace officer education and training, including, among other duties, establishing a certificate program for peace officers, making inquiries to ensure adherence to standards for the recruitment and training of peace officers, and implementing specified courses of instruction in procedures applicable in specific circumstances, such as domestic violence and child abuse or neglect. Existing law authorizes the commission to adopt those regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes of these provisions relating to peace officer standards and training.

This bill would enact the Maritime Peace Officer Standards Training Act of 2013. The bill would require each peace officer who is assigned to a jurisdiction that includes waterborne environments to complete a

course in basic maritime law for law enforcement officers. The bill would require the course of instruction to include, among other things, boat handling, navigation rules, and comprehensive training regarding maritime boardings, arrest procedures, and counterterrorism practices and procedures. The bill would require that the curriculum be consistent with federal standards and tactical training. The provisions of the bill would become operative in a city, county, city and county, or district contingent upon the appropriation of federal funds for these purposes, as specified, and the adoption of a resolution by the governing body of that city, county, city and county, or district, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
- 2 Maritime Peace Officer Standards Training Act of 2013.
- 3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 4 (a) There is a need for legislation requiring that peace officers
- 5 in this state who serve in jurisdictions that include marine ports,
- 6 navigable lakes, and rivers be certified by the Commission on
- 7 Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), based on completion
- 8 of a basic maritime law enforcement officer’s course of instruction.
- 9 (b) Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies maintain
- 10 joint responsibility and authority within marine ports and territorial
- 11 and inland waters. Law enforcement officers who serve in
- 12 jurisdictions that include waterborne environments, such as ports,
- 13 navigable waters, dockside environments, or recreational areas
- 14 located near or on navigable waterways, have a unique set of
- 15 responsibilities. These officers perform tasks that are specific and
- 16 particular to these environments, and they are called upon to ensure
- 17 safety and security in light of the unique set of maritime laws and
- 18 regulations.
- 19 (c) As a result of post-9/11 homeland security and port security
- 20 missions, maritime training has not only evolved but become a
- 21 necessity among law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictions
- 22 include maritime areas. As agencies such as the United States
- 23 Coast Guard, sheriff’s departments, and police departments enhance
- 24 their maritime presence, adequacy and consistency of training is
- 25 critical. Cases where multiagency operations are taking place or

1 where agencies are assisting each other during routine operations  
2 are of particular interest. This concern was highlighted in the  
3 federal Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. Unlike other  
4 requirements in the POST system, there are no statewide standards  
5 for tactical training for state and local maritime officers.

6 (d) A POST-certified curriculum consistent with federal  
7 standards and tactical training would benefit the growing number  
8 of law enforcement agencies that have created specialized maritime  
9 units, and achieve consistent adherence to the federal Department  
10 of Homeland Security’s strategy for maritime security to combat  
11 terrorism. Course curriculum would provide basic instruction for  
12 crewmembers on law enforcement and public safety vessels  
13 operated by local authorities. Boat handling, chart reading, and  
14 navigation rules are a necessity to personnel. Additionally, students  
15 would receive comprehensive training on maritime boardings,  
16 arrest procedures, vessel identification, searches, and  
17 counterterrorism practices and procedures.

18 (e) Therefore, in order to ensure that maritime law enforcement  
19 is conducted safely, effectively, and consistently throughout the  
20 state, this type of training should be required by state law.

21 SEC. 3. Section 13518.5 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

22 13518.5. (a) Each peace officer in California who is assigned  
23 to a jurisdiction that includes a waterborne environment shall  
24 complete a course in basic maritime law for law enforcement  
25 officers. The course of instruction shall include boat handling,  
26 chart reading, navigation rules, and comprehensive training  
27 regarding maritime boardings, arrest procedures, vessel  
28 identification, searches, and counterterrorism practices and  
29 procedures. The curriculum shall be consistent with applicable  
30 federal standards and tactical training.

31 (b) For purposes of this section, a “waterborne environment”  
32 includes, but is not limited to, any jurisdiction that includes a port,  
33 a navigable lake or river, or inland waters.

34 (c) This section shall become operative in a city, county, city  
35 and county, or district when both of the following apply:

36 (1) The federal Department of Homeland Security has provided  
37 funding to a law enforcement agency in a city, county, city and  
38 county, or district to implement this section.

39 (2) The governing body of the city, county, city and county, or  
40 district, such as the board of supervisors of a county or the city

1 council, has adopted a resolution agreeing to implement this  
2 section.

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