

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

S

2

SENATE BILL 721\*  
State and Local Government Committee Substitute Adopted 6/12/18

Short Title: Required Training Police Telecommunicators.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 21, 2018

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF POLICE  
3 TELECOMMUNICATORS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE  
4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 17E-7 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 17E-7. Required standards.

8 (a) Justice officers, other than those set forth in subsection (c1) of this section, shall not  
9 be required to meet any requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of this section as a condition of  
10 continued employment, nor shall failure of a justice officer to fulfill such requirements make him  
11 ineligible for any promotional examination for which he is otherwise eligible if the officer held  
12 an appointment prior to July 1, 1983, and is a sworn law-enforcement officer with power of  
13 arrest. The legislature finds, and it is hereby declared to be the policy of this Chapter, that such  
14 officers have satisfied such requirements by their experience. It is the intent of the Chapter that  
15 all justice officers employed at the entry level after the Commission has adopted the required  
16 standards shall meet the requirements of this Chapter. All justice officers who are exempted from  
17 the required entry level standards by this subsection are subject to the requirements of subsections  
18 (b) and (c) of this section as well as the requirements of G.S. 17E-4(a) in order to retain  
19 certification.

20 (b) The Commission shall provide, by regulation, that no person may be appointed as a  
21 justice officer at entry level, except on a temporary or probationary basis, unless such person has  
22 satisfactorily completed an initial preparatory program of training at a school certified by the  
23 Commission or has been exempted from that requirement by the Commission pursuant to this  
24 Chapter. Upon separation of a justice officer from a sheriff's department within the temporary or  
25 probationary period of appointment, the probationary certification shall be terminated by the  
26 Commission. Upon the reappointment to the same department or appointment to another  
27 department of an officer who has separated from a department within the probationary period,  
28 the officer shall be charged with the amount of time served during his initial appointment and  
29 allowed the remainder of the probationary period to complete the basic training requirement.  
30 Upon the reappointment to the same department or appointment to another department of an  
31 officer who has separated from a department within the probationary period and who has  
32 remained out of service for more than one year from the date of separation, the officer shall be  
33 allowed another probationary period to complete such training as the Commission shall require  
34 by rule for an officer returning to service.

35 (c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the Commission, by  
36 rules and regulations, may fix other qualifications for the employment and retention of justice



\* S 7 2 1 - V - 2 \*

1 officers including minimum age, education, physical and mental standards, citizenship, good  
2 moral character, experience, and such other matters as relate to the competence and reliability of  
3 persons to assume and discharge the responsibilities of the office, and the Commission shall  
4 prescribe the means for presenting evidence of fulfillment of these requirements.

5 Where minimum educational standards are not met, yet the individual shows potential and a  
6 willingness to achieve the standards by extra study, they may be waived by the Commission for  
7 the reasonable amount of time it will take to achieve the standards required. Upon petition from  
8 a sheriff, the Commission may grant a waiver of any provisions of this section (17E-7) for any  
9 justice officer serving that sheriff.

10 (c1) Any justice officer appointed as a telecommunicator at the entry level after March 1,  
11 1998, shall meet all requirements of this Chapter. Any person employed in the capacity of a  
12 telecommunicator as defined by the Commission on or before March 1, 1998, shall not be  
13 required to meet any entry-level requirements as a condition of continued employment but shall  
14 be reported to the Commission for certification. All justice officers who are exempted from the  
15 required entry-level standards by this subsection are subject to the requirements of subsections  
16 (b) and (c) of this section as well as the requirements of G.S. 17E-4(a) in order to retain  
17 certification.

18 (c2) Effective July 1, 2020, any person employed as a telecommunicator by a municipal  
19 police agency shall meet all the requirements for telecommunicators as set forth in this Chapter.

20 (d) The Commission may issue a certificate evidencing satisfaction of the requirements  
21 of subsections (b), (c), and (c1) of this section to any applicant who presents such evidence as  
22 may be required by its rules and regulations of satisfactory completion of a program or course of  
23 instruction in another jurisdiction."

24 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.