



Deputy Sheriff's Association of Michigan

DSAM Members:

Public Acts 124 and 125 of 2003 were enacted to bring mandatory certification and recertification to the Local Corrections Officer profession. Public Act 124 is the funding vehicle for that training through a \$12.00 book-in fee paid by all persons lodged in a county jail. Public Act 125 creates the Sheriffs' Coordinating and Training Council, the Local Corrections Officer Advisory Board, their duties, and sets forth the requirements for certification and recertification. Both statutes speak to the expenditure of book-in fee training monies.

Since late 2005, DSAM has been addressing the unauthorized granting of monies by the Sheriffs' Coordinating and Training Council (SCTC.) Ultimately, successful court action on March 16, 2006 and through the Michigan Appeals Court ordered the Council to stop unauthorized expenditures.

DSAM continued to monitor the Local Corrections Officer recertification statistics reported by Sheriffs to the SCTC. Many sheriffs have not been in compliance with the mandatory recertification requirements from the date of inception to the date of this letter. At the same time, DSAM sent Freedom of Information Act requests to sheriffs and County Boards in an effort to find out where the local book-in fee monies are and what that money has been spent on. Our efforts reveal that there are sheriffs that are non-compliant with either the mandatory recertification requirements and/or the expenditure of local book-in fee monies.

Efforts by the DSAM representatives on the SCTC to address and correct this non-compliance have, for the most part, fallen on deaf ears of the other five members of the Council appointed by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association. The Michigan Sheriffs' Association controls this Council. The SCTC is housed within the Michigan Sheriffs' Association offices. The Council Executive Secretary, Jim Reed, is a former employee of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, which is also a registered lobby organization. There is little commitment on the part of this Council to ensure that sheriffs comply with Public Acts 124 and 125.

During the May 2008 quarterly meeting of the SCTC, the recertification statistics of Local Corrections Officers for 2007 were released to Council members. These statistics showed a dismal display of sheriffs not in compliance with the statute. At the insistence of the two DSAM representatives that something be done, including enforcement of the statute by the Attorney General's Office, the Council agreed to send a letter to all sheriffs addressing the recertification requirements. The letter was drafted and submitted to the Council by Jim Reed and approved to be sent. After the letter was sent, DSAM representatives on the Council found that the letter sent was not the letter authorized and approved by the Council. It had been changed. The Council directed Jim Reed to send out the correct letter. Once again, DSAM Council representatives found the second letter sent by Reed to be unauthorized. For the third time, the Council directed Reed to send out the letter authorized in May 2008. Finally, in October 2009, almost one and a

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half years later, Jim Reed sent out the letter authorized by the Council. The letter, including statistical information, is attached for your review.

It has been six years now since Public Acts 124 and 125 became effective. During these six years, the Council has had full knowledge of non-compliant sheriffs. All they could muster was a letter that took one and a half years to complete and mail, imploring the sheriffs to follow the law. Internal efforts on the part of DSAM to address these issues have been met with resistance from both the Council and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association.

DSAM has met with Senator Randy Richardville (R-Monroe Co.) and discussed the issues addressed herein. It was Senator Richardville who, as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, was the lead sponsor of Public Acts 124 and 125. As a result, Senator Richardville is going to introduce legislation that would merge the Council into the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). The proposed legislation would give MCOLES oversight authority over Local Corrections Officer training and book-in fee monies.

Be aware that the MSA, SCTC, and perhaps your sheriff will put out notices that DSAM wants to transfer the Council to the Michigan State Police. That is a false statement. One can only categorize that statement as pure "Sheriff Mythology".

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) has been around for forty-five years. The Commission has a diverse composition of labor and management including three sheriffs. Their infrastructure, staffing and experience, equipment, reporting, statutory enforcement, and auditing of funds are light years ahead of the Sheriffs' Coordinating and Training Council.

MCOLES, while in the Michigan State Police budget, reports directly to the Governor's Office. The SCTC is in the Michigan Department of Corrections budget and no one knows who they report to.

The proposed legislation has been introduced and assigned bill numbers: SB 1042, SB 1043, and SB 1044. View text of the bills at www.michiganlegislature.org.