

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Pinellas County; amending chapter
 3 72-666, Laws of Florida, as amended; updating
 4 terminology applicable to provisions relating to the
 5 Pinellas Police Standards Council; revising certain
 6 assessments of court costs that provide funding for
 7 the council; providing an effective date.

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 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Sections 2, 3, and 4 of section 72-666, Laws of
 12 Florida, as amended by chapter 97-333, Laws of Florida, are
 13 amended to read:

14 Section 2. Membership of the council; terms of office;
 15 vacancies.—The council shall be composed of members to be
 16 selected as follows:

17 (a) The chief of police from each law enforcement agency
 18 employing law enforcement officers as defined in chapter 943,
 19 Florida Statutes, having its headquarters in Pinellas County or
 20 his or her designee.

21 (b) The Sheriff of Pinellas County or his or her designee.

22 (c) The State Attorney or his or her designee.

23 (d) The director of the Southeastern Public Safety
 24 Institute at St. Petersburg Junior College or his or her
 25 designee.

26 Section 3. Officers; meetings; quorum.—

27 (a) The council shall elect one of its members as
 28 chairperson ~~chairman~~, who shall serve from June 1 through May 31

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29 | of the following year. Other offices, if any, shall be created
30 | by the council.

31 | (b) The council shall meet at least once each month, at
32 | such other times as the council may determine, and at any other
33 | time at the call of the chairperson ~~chairman~~. It shall adopt
34 | rules for the transaction of business and keep records of its
35 | transactions, resolutions, findings, determinations, and
36 | recommendations, which records shall be public records.

37 | (c) At all meetings of the council, a quorum shall consist
38 | of a majority of the membership. Official business of the
39 | council may not be transacted unless a quorum is present.

40 | Section 4. Powers and duties.—In the performance of its
41 | duties and the execution of its functions under this act, the
42 | council shall have the following powers:

43 | (a) To maintain an office at such place or places within
44 | Pinellas County as it designates.

45 | (b) To hold public hearings and sponsor public forums.

46 | (c) To enter into agreements with, accept and expend funds
47 | and grants from, and accept and use services from:

48 | (1) The Federal Government and its agencies.

49 | (2) The state government and its agencies.

50 | (3) The county government and its agencies.

51 | (4) The several municipalities in Pinellas County.

52 | (5) Private or civic sources.

53 | (d) To study and conduct investigations into the financial
54 | and other operations of each municipal police department.

55 | (e) To study ways to promote cooperation between all law
56 | enforcement agencies in securing efficient and effective law

57 enforcement.

58 (f) To recommend cooperative policies for the coordination
 59 of law enforcement within Pinellas County and all its
 60 municipalities.

61 (g) To make recommendations that would lead to the
 62 elimination of duplication of effort, if any.

63 (h) To hire an executive director to conduct the business
 64 of the council at its direction and supervise such other
 65 employees as are authorized by the council to perform necessary
 66 tasks.

67 (i) To make recommendations concerning minimum standards
 68 for employment and training of law enforcement officers and law
 69 enforcement support personnel, as well as departmental
 70 facilities, equipment, and needs.

71 (j) To make recommendations concerning law enforcement in
 72 general which would enhance the quality of such law enforcement.

73 (k) To provide for a centralized screening and information
 74 center on prospective law enforcement officers in Pinellas
 75 County, to be known as the Police Applicant Screening Services
 76 (PASS) ~~Public Safety Applicant Screening Service (PSASS)~~.

77 (1) The council shall provide standardized forms,
 78 screening, testing, and other necessary background research
 79 concerning ~~of~~ prospective applicants and shall provide
 80 information from a ~~the~~ centralized candidate pool to law
 81 enforcement agencies in Pinellas County. Each law enforcement
 82 agency may use the forms provided by the council, ~~and~~ may ~~shall~~
 83 provide to the council for use by PASS ~~PSASS~~ copies of
 84 applications and results of any screening and background

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85 investigation performed by the agency. When processing
86 applicants, each law enforcement agency may request a report
87 from PASS ~~PSASS~~ regarding any prospective employee of that
88 agency. Applicant information from PASS ~~PSASS~~ shall be released
89 only upon the request of a law enforcement agency and the
90 applicant.

91 (2) The council's annual budget shall be submitted to the
92 Board of County Commissioners for their approval. The provisions
93 of this section shall be funded by a court cost in an amount to
94 be set by resolution adopted by the council which does not
95 exceed the amount specified in s. 318.18(11)(b), Florida
96 Statutes \$2, on all payable offenses, to be assessed by the
97 circuit and county courts in Pinellas County on all contested
98 and uncontested traffic cases, criminal and civil, excluding
99 parking fines, bicycle violations, and pedestrian violations
100 that are payable offenses. Additional funding may be secured by
101 the council by assessing the law enforcement agencies a fee for
102 the cost of screening the applicants.

103 (3) The council may establish reasonable fees to be paid
104 by applicants to offset a portion of the screening costs.

105 (1) To provide similar applicant testing, screening, and
106 information services, as outlined in this section, for the state
107 and its agencies, Pinellas County, the several municipalities
108 within Pinellas County, or entities that provide public-safety-
109 related services through contract with any of the foregoing, for
110 prospective candidates for law enforcement, law enforcement
111 support, corrections, or public safety positions, including, but
112 not limited to, law enforcement officer, corrections officer,

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113 public safety answering point call taker, dispatcher,
114 communications operator, crime scene technician, firefighter,
115 emergency medical technician, or paramedic. The council may
116 enter into agreements necessary to carry out this work, with the
117 costs of such screening, including a reasonable allowance for
118 overhead, being paid by the agency receiving the service. Such
119 agreements may provide for reasonable fees to be paid by
120 applicants to offset a portion of the screening costs.

121 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.