

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  
 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.

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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 (l) The council shall provide standardized forms,  
78 screening, testing, and other necessary background research

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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, ~~7~~ and shall  
83 provide to the council for use by PASS ~~PSASS~~ copies of  
84 applications and results of any screening and background  
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 and approved by the  
95 county commission which does not exceed the amount specified in  
96 s. 318.18(11)(b), Florida Statutes ~~\$2~~, on all payable offenses,  
97 to be assessed by the circuit and county courts in Pinellas  
98 County on all contested and uncontested traffic cases, criminal  
99 and civil, excluding parking fines, bicycle violations, and  
100 pedestrian violations that are payable offenses. Additional  
101 funding may be secured by the council by assessing the law  
102 enforcement agencies a fee for the cost of screening the  
103 applicants.

104 (3) The council may establish reasonable fees to be paid

105 by applicants to offset a portion of the screening costs.

106 (1) To provide similar applicant testing, screening, and  
107 information services, as outlined in this section, for the state  
108 and its agencies, Pinellas County, the several municipalities  
109 within Pinellas County, or entities that provide public-safety-  
110 related services through contract with any of the foregoing, for  
111 prospective candidates for law enforcement, law enforcement  
112 support, corrections, or public safety positions, including, but  
113 not limited to, law enforcement officer, corrections officer,  
114 public safety answering point call taker, dispatcher,  
115 communications operator, crime scene technician, firefighter,  
116 emergency medical technician, or paramedic. The council may  
117 enter into agreements necessary to carry out this work, with the  
118 costs of such screening, including a reasonable allowance for  
119 overhead, being paid by the agency receiving the service. Such  
120 agreements may provide for reasonable fees to be paid by  
121 applicants to offset a portion of the screening costs.

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