

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS STUDY COMMITTEE

Report to the Legislative Council
and the Members of the
First Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly

F I N A L R E P O R T

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS STUDY COMMITTEE

December, 1972

At its April 12 meeting, the Legislative Council, at the request of the Chairmen of the Appropriations Committees of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly, established an eight-member study committee to study the law enforcement training programs and facilities in this state and determine the training and educational needs of the respective law enforcement agencies. The following legislative members were appointed to the Study Committee:

Senator Vernon H. Kyhl
Senator Gene V. Kennedy
Senator Francis L. Messerly
Senator Harold Thordsen
Representative Perry L. Christensen
Representative Keith H. Dunton
Representative Rollin C. Edelen
Representative Laverne W. Schroeder

At its first meeting on October 10, 1972, the Study Committee organized by electing Senator Vernon H. Kyhl to serve as Chairman and Representative Rollin C. Edelen to serve as Vice Chairman, and heard testimony from representatives of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, the Department of Public Instruction, the Iowa Crime Commission, the Indian Hills Community College at Ottumwa, and the Des Moines Area Community College at Ankeny. In the testimony, these representatives emphasized the difference between the law enforcement training programs and law enforcement or police science education programs, the former being basic recruit training in practical law enforcement work and the latter being more philosophically and academically oriented in the disciplines of sociology, psychology, penology, criminology, and related courses. The representatives of the training and educational institutions agreed that the law enforcement training and educational programs should be designed to complement each other rather than one type of program trying to be a substitute for the other. The testimony also disclosed that three area community colleges, the Northwest Iowa Vocational School, the Hawkeye Institute of Technology, and the Indian Hills Community College, are certified by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council to conduct law enforcement training programs.

At its second meeting on November 21, the Study Committee heard testimony from representatives of the Iowa State Sheriffs' Association, the Iowa Association of Chiefs of Police and Peace Officers, Iowa Highway Safety Patrol, the Iowa State Policemen's Association, and the Iowa State Deputy Sheriff's Association. These representatives testified that the police science educational programs should be available to supplement and broaden the basic recruit training program offered at the Academy; however, these

educational programs offered by the area community colleges should not be considered a substitute for basic recruit training. The law enforcement officer associations also expressed support for the Academy's plan to expand its physical facilities at Camp Dodge and increase the curriculum of the basic recruit training course.

The final meeting of the Study Committee was held on November 30 at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy at Camp Dodge. The Study Committee toured the physical facilities of the Academy and attended some of the classes of the basic recruit training session which was in progress. The Study Committee also interviewed two of the recruits who had also attended an area community college and had taken police science instruction.

The two recruits strongly endorsed the training given at the Academy and indicated that the Academy training was superior to that received at the area community college. They noted that the professionalism exhibited by the instructors at the Academy was the primary reason for their opinions. The recruits were of the opinion that a person desiring law enforcement training should first attend the Academy and then supplement the training received at the Academy with courses offered at community colleges.

A majority of the Study Committee members agreed with the following conclusions:

1. There is a need for both types of training; the courses being offered at the Law Enforcement Academy and the community colleges.

2. The Law Enforcement Academy has made good progress in developing useful and practical training programs and it should now be expanded and properly funded.

3. There should be some coordination of curriculum between the Law Enforcement Academy, the community colleges, local police training programs, and Board of Regents institutions.

4. It is not possible, and is economically inefficient, to staff fifteen community colleges with professional instructors, and provide the necessary facilities and equipment to properly train law enforcement personnel. It is not possible to move the necessary equipment and facilities that are required to properly train law enforcement officers to community colleges from a central location.

Pursuant to such conclusions, the Law Enforcement Training Programs Study Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. The law enforcement basic recruit training program should not be developed at each of the fifteen area community colleges because there is a lack of qualified instructors, training equipment, and appropriate training facilities to provide a quality training program at each of the area community colleges.

2. The law enforcement training programs and the police science educational programs should continue to complement each other toward the goal of professionalizing law enforcement officers.

3. The physical facilities and basic recruit training curriculum of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy should be expanded to improve the overall quality of the law enforcement recruit training.