

MINNESOTA BOARD OF PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING

STATEMENT OF NEED AND REASONABLENESS

License Fees for Peace Officers,
Part-time Peace Officers and Constables

Minn. Stat. § 214.06, Subd. 1 and 2, Minn. Stat. § 16A.128, Subd. 2, and Minn. Stat. §§ 14.21-14.28 empowers the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training to set and adjust fees charged for the approval of the Commissioner of Finance. The Board has not changed the amount of any license fees since such fees were originally established in 1979. At that time, it was the Board's desire that fees be kept to a reasonable and modest level because (1) it wished to ensure rapid and universal compliance with the new law; (2) it sought only for these license fees to recover the cost of license administration itself and not fund other activities associated with the agency; and (3) peace officer licensees are strictly public employees, that is, there are no private peace officer licensees.

Since 1979, there has been a continuous inflationary increase in costs associated with the issuance and processing of licenses, while, as stated above, the licensing fees themselves have remained constant. The Department of Finance has, during this period, encouraged licensing boards to raise their fees to levels many times that which the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training is seeking to establish. The Board's intent with the proposed increases in its fees is to meet inflationary increases in administrative costs only. This modest increase is necessary so that the Board can continue to comply with its legislative mandate in an efficient and effective manner.