

STUDY OF OPTIONS FOR RELOCATING THE HIGHWAY PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY - BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

STUDY RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 5 of 2011 House Bill No. 1011 (attached as [Appendix A](#)) provides for a Legislative Management study of options for relocating the Highway Patrol training academy. The study must review options for relocating the training academy, options for relocating the emergency operations vehicle training course, and options for constructing a Highway Patrol shooting range. This study was assigned to the Government Services Committee.

BACKGROUND

History

The Highway Patrol training academy was established in Bismarck after receiving an appropriation from the 1969 Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$165,000 for the construction of the facility with funding from a one-time fee of 50 cents assessed to each motor vehicle driver's license that was issued. The facility was built in 1971 and consisted of two classrooms, dormitory rooms containing 40 beds, and a dining hall. The 1995 Legislative Assembly approved \$1.2 million of funding for an addition to the facility, which was completed in August 1997. The funding was from proceeds of short-term financing provided by the State Building Authority and repaid through a one-time assessment of an additional \$2 fee on motor vehicle registrations for passenger vehicles, trucks weighing 12,000 pounds or less, and house cars. The addition included space for a multipurpose room, four dormitory rooms, two classrooms, and an administrative office.

Location

The Highway Patrol training academy is located on the south edge of the campus of Bismarck State College. The Highway Patrol utilizes a parking lot adjacent to the Bismarck Community Bowl and Aquatics Center for an emergency vehicle operations course. A map detailing the location of the training academy and the parking lot used for the emergency vehicle operations course is attached as [Appendix B](#).

Funding

The Highway Patrol appropriation bill includes a line item for the operations of the training academy. The following table lists appropriations made by the Legislative Assembly specifically for the training academy since the 2007-09 biennium:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 2011-13 biennium | \$1,602,488 |
| 2009-11 biennium | \$1,496,942 |
| 2007-09 biennium | \$1,401,289 ¹ |

¹The 2007 Legislative Assembly also authorized the Highway Patrol to transfer \$100,000 of the \$150,000 provided for automated external defibrillators to the training academy to provide additional law enforcement and emergency services training.

The source of funding appropriated to the training academy during these bienniums is from the general fund and the highway tax distribution fund.

Shooting Range

The Highway Patrol training academy does not include a shooting range. The Highway Patrol pays a fee to use a private shooting range for training activities or uses a shooting range operated by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. However, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shooting range is located near an elementary school which limits the hours of use of the range and the types of weapons that may be used.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

2003-04 Interim Law Enforcement Training Needs Study

The 2003-04 Criminal Justice Committee studied the needs of law enforcement training in the state. The committee recommended a bill to provide additional funding to the Highway Patrol for law enforcement training. The bill, which appropriated \$400,000 from the general fund to the Highway Patrol to provide training to law enforcement agencies or to reimburse the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board for providing law enforcement training, was approved by the 2005 Legislative Assembly.

1993-94 Interim Study on Law Enforcement Training

The 1993-94 Budget Committee on Government Finance studied training programs for law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and emergency medical services personnel. The committee reviewed law enforcement training provided by the Highway Patrol and Bureau of Criminal Investigation, including the expansion of the Highway Patrol training academy to meet the training needs of law enforcement agencies.

The committee reviewed the following options for the training academy facility:

- Construct an addition to the existing building.
- Construct a new training facility adjacent to the National Guard armory in Bismarck.
- Construct a new training facility on land owned by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The committee determined that it would be more economical to build an addition to the existing building at a cost of \$1.4 million rather than construct a new facility at a cost of \$2.6 million. In addition, the committee determined that all training facilities should be located within one building in order to minimize administrative costs and to eliminate the need to transport weapons between buildings.

The committee recommended:

- The Highway Patrol capital budget request include \$1.4 million for an addition to the training academy.
- A bill to establish a \$2 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations during calendar year 1996 with funds to be used for the training academy addition.

The 1995 Legislative Assembly provided \$1.2 million for the training academy addition with funding provided from the proceeds of short-term financing with a \$2 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations used to repay the financing.

STUDY PLAN

The following is a proposed study plan for the committee's consideration in its study of options for relocating the Highway Patrol training academy:

1. Receive and review information regarding the current location of the training academy, including the ability of the current location to meet the training needs of law enforcement agencies in the state.
2. Receive and review information regarding the feasibility and desirability of relocating the training academy or emergency vehicle operations course, including potential locations to relocate the facilities.
3. Receive and review information regarding the feasibility and desirability of constructing a shooting range for the training academy, including potential locations to construct the range.
4. Receive information from the Highway Patrol, Attorney General, local police departments, local sheriff's offices, and other law enforcement agencies regarding the training needs of law enforcement agencies.
5. Receive testimony from other interested persons regarding the committee's study of options for relocating the training academy or portions of the academy.
6. Develop recommendations and any bill drafts necessary to implement the recommendations.
7. Prepare a final report for submission to the Legislative Management.

ATTACH:2