

Chief Executive Officer's Report
by James C. Lombardi
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senate Bill 5 – Senator Maldonado – OPPOSE

This bill originally changed Section 830.6 of the Penal Code to allow the Monterey Peninsula Airport District Police to appoint reserve officers. For some reason, P.O.R.A.C. did not want this to happen and the author dropped the language and rewrote the bill to allow a \$30,000 charge from the General Fund to conduct a feasibility study to allow fire department members of a bomb squad to be designated peace officers if they graduate from a FBI bomb technician course. We oppose this as it would allow persons to become peace officers outside of present POST requirements.

Senate Bill 387 – Assembly Member Curt Hagman – OPPOSE

This bill has been amended to make a local governmental entity employing peace officer volunteers responsible for training costs under a new training requirement or course for mutual aid situations or for planned events. This bill is poorly worded and redundant.

Assembly Bill 504 – Assembly Member Furutant – OPPOSE

This bill would require training of all peace officers to recognize the practice of the Sikh faith to carry a kirpan. A kirpan is a blade that resembles a sword. It is carried in a shoulder strap known as a gatra. If the carrying of this blade is restricted to religious events, we would have no objections, but the language of the bill has no restrictions. Look up this bill on the Internet and read the legislative intent.

Assembly Bill 128 – Assembly Member Coto – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

This bill extends the cancer presumption period of certain firefighters and peace officers. Active law enforcement peace officers defined in Section 830.1, subdivision (a) of Section 830.2 and subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 830.3 of the Penal Code, who are primarily engaged in active law enforcement activities are the only ones covered. Also, active firefighting members, whether volunteers, partly paid, or fully paid are also included. Why not reserve officers?

Assembly Bill 962 – Assembly Member DeLeon – OPPOSE

This bill requires that anyone transferring or selling more than 50 rounds of handgun ammunition in any month must be registered as a handgun ammunition vendor. The sponsors think that this will bring gang members to their knees. The main sponsor is the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence along with the cities of Sacramento, Healdsburg, Los Angeles and Oakland. A surprise supporter is the Los Angeles Sheriffs' Department.

Assembly Bill 297 – Assembly Member Solorio – SUPPORT

This bill will require the Department of Justice to release to law enforcement agencies information regarding a peace officer applicant's prior attempts to be hired by any other law enforcement agency. This plugs a "loop hole" through which an unqualified applicant may be hired by a California law enforcement agency.

Other California Legislation -- Our retired CCW issues are at the top of our agenda. Even though we passed prior legislation, reserves are still being denied CCW endorsements upon retirement. I have been successful in gaining support for a new bill to be introduced in the 2010 session. I will keep you advised as this endeavor will require a "grass roots" effort.

Federal Legislation -- Our federal legislation from the 110th Congress, S.376 and H.R. 2726 will roll over to the 111th Congress (2009-2010). This legislation is extremely important as it amends Title 18, The Law enforcement Officer's Safety Act, to address concerns of reserve officers.

Please advise your fellow reserves that being a member of CRPOA is something that they cannot do without. There is an escalation in disciplinary and injury events that we are processing, but you must be a member to benefit from our programs. And, remember, CRPOA is the only association looking out for the interests of reserves.

Be safe.