

**Members:**

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman  
Richard P. Campbell  
Jon E. Clark  
Marshall R. Davis  
James E. Gunderman  
John D. Holt  
Hon. Jolene Grubb Kopriva  
Hon. Nicholas P. Muller  
Clay R. Yeager



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January 31, 1997

**Meeting Minutes**

The 12th meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 10:30 a.m. via conference call on January 31, 1997. The following members were present: Chairman Larry J. Straitiff, Richard P. Campbell, Jon E. Clark, Marshall R. Davis, James E. Gunderman, John D. Holt, Hon. Jolene Grubb Kopriva, Nicholas P. Muller and Chester Kope, Executive Director. The following guests were also present: From Commissioner Holt's telephone site were David Crowe, Matt Merritt, Bill Erickson, Eric Christenson and Paul Foltz and from Commissioner Muller's telephone site were Richard Kipp, Scott Schlechter, Paula Vitz, and Stover Clark.

- I. Chairman Straitiff called the meeting to order. A roll call of members was taken and he declared a quorum of members was established. Guests at the two telephone sites were asked to be identified.
- II. The Chairman gave a brief introduction and requested that Mr. Kope update the Commission regarding the change in circumstances that necessitated the conference call meeting. Mr. Kope gave the Commission an overview of occurrences as identified in his January 27, 1997 memorandum to the Commission. It was his opinion that the current waiver criteria may have been too restrictive. This opinion was based on the number of telephone calls and the complaints received from the counties. In addition, there are 31 counties who have approximately 377 officers that currently carry firearms and 273 of those officers may not qualify to apply for a waiver.
- III. Chairman Straitiff opened the meeting for discussion. After a brief discussion Commissioner Holt made a motion to permit certified instructors to apply for a waiver. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The motion was opened for discussion. The motion was amended, and unanimously approved by the Commission members. The approved motion reads as follows:

**MOTION** - To amend our previous criteria relative to the granting of a waiver of mandatory basic training. To permit those probation/parole officers who have completed firearms instructor courses offered by the PSP, NRI, Smith and Wesson, Glock, Sig Arms, Federal Secret Service, and the Philadelphia Police Academy, to take our firearms waiver examination, with approval of the Chief Probation Officer of the employing

county, and upon receiving a completed application form as provided by the Commission.

**IV.** The meeting was opened to discuss permitting county officers to apply for a waiver who have not taken any of the required firearms training courses as specified in the waiver application, but have taken some other firearms training course. Commissioner Kopriva made a motion to permit county officers that currently carry firearms and meet minimum training requirements eligible to apply for a waiver. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holt. The motion was opened for discussion. The motion was amended and unanimously approved by the Commission members. The approved motion reads as follows:

**MOTION:** - That the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission amend the currently approved definition of "Prior Equivalent Training" for the purposes of consideration of granting a waiver of the mandatory basic firearms training, pursuant to Section 5 (14) of Act 158-94 to include, in addition to those courses of instruction already delineated:

1. Successful completion of a firearms training program conducted by or operated by a County Probation Department which meets the following criteria:
  - a. The training was provided by a firearms instructor who held a current certification by NRA, FBI, PSP, Smith and Wesson, Glock, Sig Arms, Federal Secret Service, or the Philadelphia Police Academy.
  - b. The training program consists of at least 24 hours of classroom and range instruction covering; firearm and ammunition nomenclature, weapon and range safety, fundamentals of combat shooting, legal issues, use of force and deadly force, and qualification on a law enforcement course of fire.
2. Successful completion of a federal and military law enforcement firearms training program which meets the minimum criteria listed in 1 (a) and (b).
3. Applicants for a waiver must provide the Commission with a certificate or a letter of satisfactory completion of the firearms training program.

**V.** There was no further business. Chairman Straitiff announced that the next meeting would be in Harrisburg on February 25, 1997 and adjourned the meeting.