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local law enforcement officers. This training is funded through the Law Enforcement Improvement Fund. This fund is financed by a \$2 fee which is added to court costs. The Law Enforcement Improvement Fund has not been able to provide adequate revenue to provide mandated training, which has resulted in a need to request General Fund money to meet the mandated state requirements. At the present time, law enforcement is the only profession where entry level education requirements are fully paid for by the state taxpayers rather than the individual. In addition, the ever-increasing requirements placed upon law enforcement trainees has drained the capacity of the Law Enforcement Training Center, making it nearly impossible to train additional officers. Throughout the country, the trend is to increase the basic law enforcement curriculum and the Law Enforcement Training Center is barely able to keep up now. The Training Center must concentrate on training and certifying only those law enforcement officers currently employed, thereby leaving us without a pool of officers to choose from when replacements are needed. The problems are especially acute in rural areas, which have trouble retaining the officers after they have paid to have them trained. Various solutions have been proposed to address these problems, including using officers with less training, and using reserve officers, but I believe that LB 994 would present a better solution to the problem. Rather than a city having to wait for their officer to be trained and being without an officer for the training period, officers who are already trained and certified would be available and would be able to apply for these vacancies. By utilizing the community colleges, state colleges and universities to provide the academic training necessary for certified law enforcement officers, we can free up training time at the Law Enforcement Training Center for the more advanced physical training techniques. By switching from a state-paid tuition program to a privately-paid tuition program, we will be saving money and putting the burden of paying for training back where it belongs, on the person who wants a career in law enforcement. In my opinion, this is a win-win situation for all concerned. The...it will also have a pool...give us a pool of qualified law enforcement officers to choose from and will allow qualified individuals to become certified without being hired first. LB 994 also addresses several other concerns about the certification process. The Police Standards Advisory Council