

02/13/2018 Judiciary Committee Copy

From: S Greek stradithegreek@yahoo.com
Subject: Committie members, i am a former MSP MCO now retired. I am requesting...
Date: Feb 12, 2018 at 12:16:05 PM
To: koststevens.b@gmail.com

Committie members, i am a former MSP MCO now retired. I am requesting a change in the CPL to include retired MCO's. MCO's are law enforcement officers as described by MSP in their essential job tasks and functions. The MCO and State Trooper job tasks and functions are nearly identical, except for the commercial vehicle training/enforcement. But MCO's are not MCOLES certified.

This is the one word or issue, why MSP fails to recognize retired MCO's as law enforcement officers and be approved for exempt carry status.

I believe this is wrong and must be corrected by the legislature.

The MCO recruit school is for all intensive purposes the same as a trooper recruit school except for the commercial vehicle training. My own recruit school was a blended school. Both MCO and trooper recruits trained together. Unfortunately, MCO recruits are not MCOLES certified when they graduate. An issue I soon hope the legislature corrects.

MCO's recruits MUST pass the firearms training as described by MCOLES. Just like troopers.

I was a firearms training instructor for four years., I was trained and MCOLES certified for this position. My essential functions were training and testing MSP officers. To be safe on the road and maintain their MCOLES firearms certification, including MCO's.

So all Motor Carrier Law enforcement officers are MSP trained and MCOLES certified in the use of firearms and deadly force.

MCO's are as much a law enforcement officer as a state trooper, conservation officer or any other LE officer in our state.

MSP has consistently over the years used MCO's as "primary officers", in all types of hazardous situations. The term "certified", has not been an issue when an MCO was called upon to handle an emergency situation.

The current CPL provides exempt carry status to retired law enforcement officer in good standing. It also provides exempt carry status to non law enforcement individuals.

One example of this is a private investigator. A Private Investigator license only requires a college degree in criminal justice. No law enforcement experience, but they qualify for the exempt carry CPL. Yet retired MCO's are denied.

I am providing the essential job task and functions of MCO's to the committee. These functions are outlined but not all inclusive to MCO's. You will read how the MSP in its very first line of these functions call MCO's law enforcement officers.

In closing, I would like to tell you about my last gun board experience back on January 21, 2011.

My approval for CPL exempt status was denied by MSP Post Commander Lt Elliott; now retired. Lt. Elliott admitted MCO's are LE officers, but not certified. There fore don't fall under the exempt status portion of the act. Lt. Elliott also said; and I quote, "remember MCO will always walk a half step behind a state trooper and will always be in our shadow."

I believe its time the committee and legislature correct this act. So retired MCO's can walk with there fellow retired law enforcement officers side by side and ~~be~~ know longer be in the shadows.