

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE PEACE OFFICERS
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION**

LCB File No. R006-19

June 26, 2019

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 289.510.

A REGULATION relating to peace officers; revising provisions governing the suspension, refusal or revocation of a certificate of a peace officer; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the Peace Officers’ Standards and Training Commission to adopt regulations establishing minimum standards for the certification and training of peace officers. (NRS 289.510) Existing regulations authorize the Commission to suspend, refuse or revoke the certificate of a peace officer, if, among other circumstances, the peace officer: (1) is convicted of, or pleads guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to a felony or gross misdemeanor; or (2) is convicted of a misdemeanor. If the peace officer is convicted of a misdemeanor and the employing agency recommends the suspension or revocation, existing regulations authorize the Commission to revoke or suspend the certificate of the peace officer. (NAC 289.290) This regulation authorizes the Commission to suspend or revoke the certificate of the peace officer without a recommendation from the employing agency if the peace officer is convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, as defined pursuant to federal law.

Section 1. NAC 289.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

289.290 1. Each of the following constitutes cause for the Commission to revoke, refuse or suspend the certificate of a peace officer:

- (a) Willful falsification of any information provided to obtain the certificate.
- (b) A permanent or chronic physical or mental disability affecting the officer’s ability to perform his or her full range of duties.
- (c) Chronic drinking or drunkenness on duty.

(d) Addiction to or the unlawful use or possession of narcotics or other drugs.

(e) Conviction of, or entry of a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to, a gross misdemeanor. Upon criminal indictment or filing of a criminal complaint, suspension may be imposed.

(f) Failure to comply with the standards established in this chapter.

(g) Conviction of, or entry of a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to, a felony. Upon criminal indictment or filing of a criminal complaint, suspension may be imposed. Upon conviction or entry of a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere, the certificate will be revoked.

(h) ~~Conviction~~ *Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (i), conviction* of a misdemeanor. If the employing agency recommends suspension or revocation following *the* conviction of the employee for a misdemeanor, suspension or revocation may be imposed. In determining whether to suspend or revoke the certificate, the Commission will consider the type of conviction and other information provided by the agency indicating unprofessional conduct or similar undesirable activity by the officer that resulted in disciplinary action.

(i) Conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(33). Following the conviction of the employee for such a misdemeanor, suspension or revocation may be imposed regardless of whether the employing agency recommends suspension or revocation.

2. Denial, suspension or revocation procedures will not be considered by the Commission in cases where the employment of an officer is terminated for violations of the policies, general orders or similar guidelines of operation of the employing agency which do not constitute any of the causes for denial, suspension or revocation specified in subsection 1.

3. The employing agency shall notify the Commission any time that it becomes aware that one of its officers has been charged with a crime that could result in denial, suspension or revocation procedures. Upon receipt of information alleging any of the causes enumerated in subsection 1, the Commission will determine whether to pursue revocation or suspension of the certificate of the officer.

4. The Commission will notify the officer by certified mail at the officer's last known address of any pending revocation or suspension action and of the nature of the charges and the officer's right to appear and answer the charges. The officer shall, within 15 days after the date on the certified mail receipt, respond in writing, notifying the Commission of his or her intended action with reference to the charges.

5. If the officer fails to notify the Commission within the specified time of his or her intention to appear in answer to the pending action, the Commission will:

(a) Consider the case on its own merits, using the statement from the head of the employing agency or the substantiated information derived from any independent investigation it deems necessary;

(b) Take no action pending the outcome of possible criminal action which may be filed against the officer; and

(c) Take no action pending the outcome of an appeal.

↳ The Commission's decision will be determined by a majority vote of the members of the Commission present.

6. When an officer notifies the Commission of his or her intention to appear and answer the charges pending against him or her, the Commission will elect to sit as a whole at a hearing or designate an independent hearing officer to hear the matter and make recommendations in

writing to the Commission. The Commission will review the recommendations of any such hearing officer and arrive at a decision by majority vote of the members present.

7. The Commission will notify the officer of its decision within 15 days after the hearing.

8. An applicant for a certificate who has not been previously certified, but who would be subject to revocation for any cause set out in subsection 1, will not be granted a certificate.

9. If, upon receiving a written allegation that a peace officer is in violation of any provision of subsection 1 and that the facts and circumstances indicate that suspension rather than revocation would be in the best interests of the agency and law enforcement in general, the Commission will suspend the officer's certificate.

10. The Commission will provide each peace officer whose certificate is suspended with written notice of the suspension by certified registered mail. The suspension becomes effective 24 hours after receipt of the certified notice. The notice will contain a statement advising the officer of the right to a hearing.

11. Suspension of a certificate is not a bar to future revocation of the certificate and any prior suspensions may be considered as a factor if revocation is being considered by the Commission.

12. Five years after the revocation of a certificate, an officer may submit a written request to the Commission to allow him or her to reinstate his or her certificate. The Commission will schedule a hearing to consider whether to reinstate the officer's certificate. The Commission will notify the agency that requested the revocation of the date and time of the hearing. After the hearing, the Commission will determine whether to reinstate the certificate. If the certificate is reinstated, the Commission may establish a probationary period during which any misconduct by the officer would result in revocation.

