

Effective July 1, 2012 the POST Board will change its role in processing applications for:

Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (LEOSA)

Background

In 2004 President Bush signed HR 218, the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (LEOSA).

The "national permit to carry" authorized qualified persons to carry a firearm if they:

- retired in good standing after fifteen years of aggregate service,
- possessed a photo ID card from their agency,
- passed an annual firearms proficiency qualification, and
- were not barred from carrying a weapon due to criminal history or court order.

In 2004, Governor Pawlenty directed DPS Commissioner Campion, BCA Superintendent O'Malley and POST Board Director Melton to implement Minnesota's response to the law.

It was agreed:

- BCA's "active agent" qualification would serve as the statewide firearms standard.
- POST would oversee implementation of the new law and maintain relevant information on the Board's website.
- It was estimated the number of LEOSA applications would be fewer than 100 annually.

To help launch and then facilitate LEOSA applications, POST "absorbed" all costs related to LEOSA including:

- printed wallet-size cards,
- staff time to maintain a roster of certified firearms instructors,
- process all applications received, and
- answered hundreds of emails, phone calls and letters each year.

In 2010 President Obama signed the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act Improvement Act (LEOSAIA). The new language included in part, "retired or separated after ten years of service."

The POST Board's participation in processing LEOSA applications was never required but staff provided that service and mailed a separate card because, frankly, it "looked more official" than the completed application sheet.

However, now that annual LEOSA applications are approaching 700, POST will no longer provide LEOSA application services. That decision will in no way adversely impact an officer's ability to get the authority to carry under LEOSA regulations.

Retired or separated officers have two options to qualify under LEOSA

Option 1: "Home agency"

- agency issues a photo ID and
- documentation of annual firearms training (a card or completed one-page LEOSA application form).

Option 2: "Other"

- "Home agency" issues a photo ID,
- officer qualifies at another agency or private gun range and
- the certified instructor provides documentation of annual firearms training.

Under either option, the officer has met all requirements for LEOSA and there is no need to send anything to the POST Board.

POST will continue to have all relevant information and forms on the website but will no longer process applications. Options 1 and 2 fully meet the requirements of the law.

If you have questions about these changes, please email me at neil.melton@state.mn.us.

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