



Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training

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Reciprocity and Military Reciprocity Licensing Information

Studying for the exam:

The purpose of the *Reciprocity Licensing Examination* is to ensure peace officers with training and experience in law enforcement outside of Minnesota will be familiar with important Minnesota laws. The purpose is not to test basic law enforcement knowledge -- it is assumed that candidates already have an understanding of standard procedures and techniques, constitutional issues and other topics that are common to all states – but rather to ensure candidates have some command of Minnesota-specific statutes.

It is not safe to assume the laws of an individual's home state are the same as those of Minnesota. Legal concepts and terminology, while similar, can lead the unprepared to erroneous conclusions.

Major topics covered on the exam:

- A. Minnesota criminal code and other statutes related to law enforcement;
- B. Minnesota traffic code; and
- C. Minnesota juvenile justice law.

The exam has multiple-choice questions. Approximately one half of the questions relate to the criminal code and selected statutes; one-third of the questions relate to the traffic code and the remaining questions include juvenile justice, and a variety of general policing topics.

A passing score is 70%. Adequate and sensible study should lead to success on this exam. Individuals are allowed three attempts to pass before a formal remedial training procedure is required.

- A. **Criminal Code and Selected Statutes:** Candidates should study the most recent edition of the POST Board's *Criminal Code and Selected Statutes for Peace Officers*. This publication is issued annually and is available from Minnesota's Bookstore located at 660 Olive Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101 or phone (651) 297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757.

The examination covers statutes from both the criminal code section of the publication (Chapter 609) and from the selected statutes section (part two of the publication).

Candidates should learn the various offense levels of crime (felony, gross misdemeanor, etc.) and what the penalties are for each. They will NOT be asked to identify Minnesota statutes by number. Candidates should know the most commonly used US Codes and court decisions which provide officers the right to detain, arrest, search, etc. Candidates should not spend study time on unusual or specialized types of crimes. Of more importance are those statutes that an ordinary patrol officer would encounter regularly.

In addition to the criminal code (chapter 609) the **Selected Statutes** section contains reference material Minnesota peace officers should be familiar with. Much of the material in the selected statutes is for reference only. It is important to review the selected statutes with emphasis on the following:

1. Chapter 152, Prohibited Drugs
2. Chapter 518B, Domestic Abuse
3. Chapter 611A, Crime Victims
4. Chapter 626, (Peace Officer) Training, Warrants, etc.
5. Chapter 634, Special Rules, Evidence, Witnesses, etc.

B. Minnesota Traffic Code: Candidates should study the current *Minnesota Motor Vehicle Traffic Laws* (Chapters 169 and 169a). Relevant sections of the traffic laws are now included in the **Criminal Code and Selected Statutes for Peace Officers**, so it is no longer necessary to purchase two separate publications. Study should be focused on such relevant enforcement information as traffic definitions, implied consent, driving under the influence, open bottle law, careless/reckless driving, and accident investigations.

C. Minnesota Juvenile Justice Law: The laws relating to the various aspects of juvenile justice are found in Chapter 260 A, B, and C of Minnesota statutes. These chapters are found in the most recent edition of the POST Board's **Criminal Code and Selected Statutes for Peace Officers**. Candidates should study the purpose of juvenile law in Minnesota, basic definitions, the jurisdiction of juvenile court, custody issues, status offenses, etc. and understand how juvenile law contrasts and compares with adult law.

Alternatively, these statutes are available on the internet at the State of Minnesota Web Page www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/statutes.asp

Please contact the POST Board's Testing and Licensing Coordinator at (651) 201-7784 for any questions regarding the exam.