

(a) The Vermont State Building Security Board is established to develop, implement, and evaluate the success of comprehensive security plans and procedures for the worksites of State employees, and the employees of the Vermont Judiciary.

(b) The Board shall consist of seven members: two members appointed by the Governor; the Vermont State Court Administrator, or designee; one member appointed by the Attorney General; and three members appointed by the President of the Vermont State Employees' Association.

(c) Members who are not State employees or not otherwise compensated in the course of their employment shall receive per diem compensation and expense reimbursement for meetings in accordance with the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 1010. Members who receive per diem shall receive compensation for no more than 12 meetings per year.

(d) The Board shall annually, from among its membership, elect a member to serve as Board chair and a member to serve as Board vice chair. The Board shall hold at least four regular meetings a year. Meetings of the Board may be held at any time or place within Vermont upon call of the Chair or a majority of the members, after reasonable notice to the other members and shall be held at such times and places as in the judgment of the Board will best serve the convenience of all parties in interest. The Board shall adopt rules and procedures with respect to the conduct of its meetings and other affairs. Membership on the Board does not constitute the holding of an office for any purpose, and members of the Board shall not be required to take and file oaths of office before serving on the Board. A member of the Board shall not be disqualified from holding any public office or employment, and shall not forfeit any office or employment, by reason of their appointment to the Board, notwithstanding any statute, ordinance, or charter to the contrary.

(e) The Board shall appoint a Director of Safety and Security who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board. He or she shall:

(1) Develop and implement, annually, a comprehensive plan to ensure security for State and Vermont Judiciary employees.

(2) Compile an annual report on the number and type of security incidents concerning State employees, and the employees of the Vermont Judiciary. This report shall be provided annually to the House Committee on Government Operations, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(3) Perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board.

(f) The Executive Director is entitled to compensation, as established by law, and reimbursement for the expenses within the amounts available by appropriation. The Executive Director may, with the approval of the Board, hire employees to fulfill the duties outlined in subsections 1-3 of section (e) of this title. These employees shall be classified State employees.

(g) The Director of Safety and Security shall partner with the Department of Buildings and General Services, whose staff shall be responsible for the installation, maintenance, replacement of physical plant alterations necessary for the implementation of the Director's security plan.

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Buildings and Courthouses Police Department

(a) As used in this section:

1. "Courthouse" means a building or any portion of a building designated by the Supreme Court of Vermont as a courthouse.
2. "State building" means a building or any portion of a building designated by the Director of Safety and Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings and General Services

(b) Creation. The Buildings and Courthouses Police Department is created within the Department of Public Safety. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall appoint and may remove, at his or her pleasure, a Buildings and Courthouses Police Department officer to serve as Chief. The Chief be an exempt State employee, and shall appoint individuals to serve as additional Buildings and Courthouses Police Department officers. All such positions shall be classified State employees. The Chief shall supervise the officer force. Such appointments and all oaths or affirmations shall be in writing and filed with the Commissioner of Public Safety.

(c) Powers; training.

(1) A Buildings and Courthouses Police Officer shall have all the same powers and authority as sheriffs and other law enforcement officers anywhere in the State, which shall include the authority to arrest persons and enforce the civil and criminal laws, keep the peace, provide security, and serve civil and criminal process. For this purpose, a Buildings and

Courthouses Police officer shall subscribe to the same oaths required for sheriffs.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a Buildings and Courthouses Police officer shall be a Level II or Level III law enforcement officer certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council pursuant to the provisions of 20 V.S.A. chapter 151, except that the Chief of the Buildings and Courthouses Police shall be a Level III certified law enforcement officer.

(c) Coordination of State Building and Courthouse security. The Buildings and Courthouses Police Department shall provide security within the State House and assist the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services in providing security and law enforcement services for State buildings and courthouses.