

## **What Happens *After* a Bill Becomes Law?**

Prepared by Jeremy Hall

June 8, 2004

Martin School of Public Policy and Administration

University of Kentucky

Developmental Disabilities Team

Project Director: Dr. Edward T. Jennings, Jr.

Understanding what occurs after a bill has been passed provides an interesting study in division of labor in Kentucky government and intergovernmental relations. When the legislature passes a bill, it goes to the Governor for signature. The Governor has the option of signing the bill, allowing it to take effect without signing it, or vetoing it. If the Governor vetoes the bill, it can still pass with a supermajority vote of the House of Representatives. After the bill passes, by any of the means above, it goes to the Secretary of State, where the signed versions for each legislative session are bound and maintained, and scanned versions are made available through the World Wide Web ([www.kysos.com](http://www.kysos.com)). If the Governor vetoes a bill, the veto message is maintained in the Secretary of State's Executive Journal.

All bills passed during a session the General Assembly have an effective date. If the bill declares an emergency, it takes effect immediately. If a bill specifies a date at which it will take effect, then that is the time at which it will take effect. Most bills do not explicitly specify a date, and therefore it is not clear when they will be enforced. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth decides, collectively, when all of these bills are to take effect and be enforced. For the 2004 Regular Session, that effective date is July 13, 2004.

How do relevant parties obtain information about changes to law? How do police officers know that it is a violation to park in a handicapped parking space? In general, a number of information sources may be at work. For a large city with the personnel infrastructure to devote to such matters, individuals may be responsible for maintaining familiarity with legislative changes. For example, the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, through the Mayor's Office, uses a staff person to communicate legislative changes to the city's departments. In Lexington, Betsy McConathy communicates legislative changes to the city departments, such as the police department, and these departments then respond with an indication of how they will comply. Moreover, the LFUCG police department maintains a separate planning and analysis unit that is tasked with preparedness for such changes.

Most counties and cities are very small and lack the personnel resources—in number and expertise—to follow such changes. These smaller governments rely on a variety of information sources, often tied to the specific division involved. For example, according to Pulaski County Jailor Mike Harris, he relies extensively on the Kentucky Jailor's Association to provide him with information on such changes. Similarly, the Kentucky

Sheriff's Association serves as a conduit of information to sheriff's offices in each county.

The Department of Local Government is a major source of information for local governments in the Commonwealth. The DLG's Division of Local Resources includes Area Development District Services (ADD Services) and Training Services. The Area Development Districts receive and communicate information from the state to local governments and vice versa. Thus, through this conduit, DLG can share information about laws and regulations with local governments. More importantly, the Training section offers a variety of courses (with continuing education credits) to local officials and government employees. The DLG's current training calendar is available at <http://www.dlg.ky.gov/training/exportlist.htm>. An interesting aspect of the DLG Training program is that they offer credit for programs not of their own making. As such, the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities could create a new program, targeted to community service personnel, police officers, or other government employees, and present it to DLG for approval. Offering continuing education credits helps to guarantee an audience, and this could be a positive method of outreach for the Council.

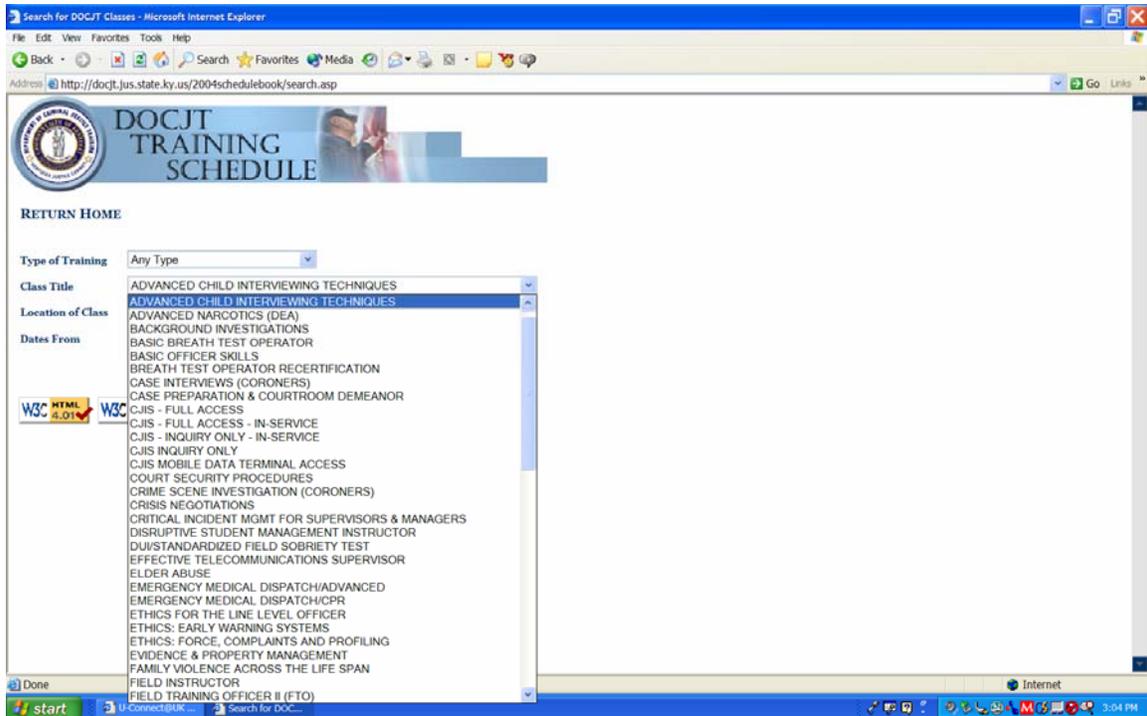
Since most laws are the responsibility of law enforcement officers at the state, county, and city levels to enforce, training specifically for these individuals is an important way that information about laws is transferred to officers on the street. The Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training is the primary provider of training for new officers, as well as continuing education for long time law enforcement officers.

“The Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) is a nationally ranked public safety and law enforcement agency that provides law enforcement officers in Kentucky with state-of-the-art training. It is one of four departments in the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. The DOCJT provides entry-level and professional development training for approximately 11,000 students each year, including city and county police officers, law enforcement telecommunicators, all coroners, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and university police. It also offers training to officers from several other state and federal agencies. The primary mission of the Department of Criminal Justice Training is to provide quality training and improvements to the criminal justice system to advance the delivery of law enforcement services in Kentucky” (<http://docjt.jus.state.ky.us>).

Through these training programs, law enforcement officials are kept up to date on changes to the laws they are charged with enforcing. The screens below demonstrate the variety of courses available, and also the type of law enforcement officials to whom courses are targeted. The 2004 training schedule can be referenced at <http://docjt.jus.state.ky.us/2004schedulebook/index.html>. All in all, Kentucky's law enforcement officials are well trained, and receive information about legislative changes from a variety of sources.

What about penalties and punishments for crimes committed? How do the courts get involved? Courts bear the distinction of being insulated from concern about legal changes. They hear only cases that are brought before them when someone is charged

with violating a law. Of course, courts, lawyers, and their employees arguing on both sides of a case are certain to become familiar with the particular law in question prior going to court.



Search for DOJT Classes - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://dojct.jus.state.ky.us/2004schedulebook/search.asp

## DOJCT TRAINING SCHEDULE

RETURN HOME

Type of Training: Any Type

Class Title: ADVANCED CHILD INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES

Location of Class: FIRE DEATH INVESTIGATIONS (CORONERS)

Dates From: FIRE/HAZMAT INCIDENT

- FIREARMS I (CORONERS)
- GRANT WRITING FOR THE PRACTITIONER
- INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES IN DEATH INVESTIGATIONS (CORONERS)
- KY SHERIFFS: CIVIL PROCESS & PROCEDURES
- KY SHERIFFS: PROCEDURAL & SAFETY ISSUES
- LAW ENFORCEMENT BASIC TRAINING
- LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT
- LEGAL UPDATE: CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE
- LEGAL UPDATE: PENAL CODE
- LEN CHAPLAIN'S SEMINAR - 2004
- MID LEVEL MANAGEMENT SKILLS
- MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS - COLLISION FORENSICS INVESTIGATION**
- OFFICE ADMINISTRATION (CORONERS)
- ORIENTATION FOR NEW POLICE CHIEFS
- PATROL/TRAFFIC SKILLS REVISITED
- PHOTOGRAPHY FOR CORONERS
- POLICE CYCLIST COURSE
- POLICE PATROL RIFLE INSTRUCTOR
- POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION (CORONERS)
- PPCT BASIC STUDENT COURSE (FOR RECERTIFICATION BY PPCT)
- PPCT DEFENSIVE TACTICS INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION
- PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE-DIVERSION
- PUBLIC AND POLICE SAFETY
- RADAR RECERTIFICATION
- ROBBERY INVESTIGATION
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER - ADVANCED
- SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
- SPANISH FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT II

Done

3:04 PM

Search for DOJT Classes - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://dojct.jus.state.ky.us/2004schedulebook/search.asp

## DOJCT TRAINING SCHEDULE

RETURN HOME

Type of Training: Any Type

Class Title: ADVANCED CHILD INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES

Location of Class: MID LEVEL MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Dates From: MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS - COLLISION FORENSICS INVESTIGATION

- OFFICE ADMINISTRATION (CORONERS)
- ORIENTATION FOR NEW POLICE CHIEFS
- PATROL/TRAFFIC SKILLS REVISITED
- PHOTOGRAPHY FOR CORONERS
- POLICE CYCLIST COURSE
- POLICE PATROL RIFLE INSTRUCTOR
- POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION (CORONERS)
- PPCT BASIC STUDENT COURSE (FOR RECERTIFICATION BY PPCT)
- PPCT DEFENSIVE TACTICS INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION
- PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE-DIVERSION
- PUBLIC AND POLICE SAFETY
- RADAR RECERTIFICATION
- ROBBERY INVESTIGATION
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER - ADVANCED
- SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
- SPANISH FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT II
- SPANISH FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATOR
- SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM TACTICS
- STRESS
- TEAMBUILDING
- TELE. ACADEMY FOR NON-TERMINAL AGENCY
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY
- TELECOMMUNICATOR'S RESPONSE TO A MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT
- TERRORISM: WHAT PATROL OFFICERS NEED TO KNOW
- TERRORIST ACTIVITIES
- VEHICLE COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS - LEVEL I
- VEHICLE COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS - LEVEL II
- VEHICLE COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS - LEVEL III

Done

3:05 PM

Search for DOCJT Classes - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Search Favorites Media

Address http://doctj.us.state.ky.us/2004schedulebook/search.asp Go Links



# DOCJT TRAINING SCHEDULE

RETURN HOME

Type of Training

Class Title

Location of Class

Dates From

- Any Type
- BASIC
- CJIS
- CORONERS
- DEPUTY SHERIFFS
- INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT
- INVESTIGATIONS
- PATROL
- SUPERVISION/MANAGEMENT
- TELE-IN-SERVICE
- TELE-BASIC
- TELE-SUPERVISION
- TRAFFIC

W3C HTML 4.01 W3C

by 508 Bobby

start U-Connect@UK... Search for DOC... Document1 - M... Internet 3:05 PM