



Chief Anthony J. King

Chairman

State of New Hampshire

POLICE STANDARDS & TRAINING COUNCIL
NH LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION COMMISSION
Arthur D. Kehas

Law Enforcement Training Facility & Campus
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John V. Scippa

Director

July 20, 2023

Released by Director John V. Scippa, NH Police Standards and Training

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John V. Scippa".

FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE:

The New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council (NHPSTC) along with the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (NHLEAC) are pleased to announce the highly anticipated rollout of the State's new Law Enforcement Accreditation Program and is now accepting applications as of this date. This new program is a voluntary process, and while available to all agencies, is especially designed to be both achievable and affordable for those midsized and smaller agencies. The program's 114 current standards reflect industry recognized best practices in each critical area of law enforcement authority including; management, operations, investigations, records and support services. These standards reflect what agencies should be doing, but not how they should do it.

The NHLEAC was established by Governor Chris Sununu in 2022, through Executive Order 2022-06 to serve the following functions:

- Provide recommendations and continual review to the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council to establish State law enforcement accreditation standards consistent with nationally recognized standards and New Hampshire law;
- Conduct assessments and issue certificates of accreditation and re-accreditation for law enforcement agencies upon demonstration of compliance with these established standards;
- Promote self-regulation of law enforcement agencies through accreditation and encourage all agencies to voluntarily participate in the State accreditation process;
- Provide training relating to the accreditation program for New Hampshire law enforcement and members of the public; and,
- Conduct research and cooperate with national, regional, and local, public and private, associations, agencies, and experts to continuously improve the accreditation program and the delivery of law enforcement services in New Hampshire.

The Commission is administratively attached to the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council with members serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The ten member Commission consist of the following: the Attorney General or designee, the Director of PSTC or designee, one state senator recommended by the State President, one state representative recommended by the Speaker of the House, three members of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, nominated by the President of the Association and including at least one representative from a department of ten sworn



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officers or less, one member of the New Hampshire Sheriff's Association, nominated by the President of the Association, one representative from a New Hampshire college or university appointed by the Governor, and one public member appointed by the Governor.

While this program may be new, law enforcement accreditation is not foreign to the State of New Hampshire. In the early 1990's a state accreditation program was established and was sustained for many years. Unfortunately, unforeseen circumstances led to the termination of this program; however, the concept of a state-run accreditation program for New Hampshire law enforcement agencies did not die. For the past several years, an informal working group from the NH Association of Chiefs of Police, the Director of the NH PSTC and other interested individuals began working informally on how best to create a law enforcement accreditation program for New Hampshire agencies. Following the creation of the NHLEAC, this group, along with subject matter experts created the current program manual agencies will follow to attain accreditation status.

Although the accreditation process may be arduous, the benefits of accreditation are well-known which can include: greater accountability to the public and within the agency; reduction in agency risk and exposure to lawsuits; increased support from government officials, and an increased community advocacy. The results of this process proves to our communities that law enforcement in the State of New Hampshire is committed to serving in the most professional, compassionate and competent manner.

"New Hampshire law enforcement sets the gold standard for public safety in our nation," said Governor Chris Sununu. "Making resources available to communities to continuously equip and train law enforcement to meet the needs of New Hampshire communities is another important step in ensuring New Hampshire remains the #1 state in America for public safety."

Chief Anthony King of the Stratham Police Department and current Chair for the NHLEAC states, "As a police chief and longtime supporter of law enforcement accreditation, it is imperative that now more than ever, we serve our communities with the utmost compassion, accountability and professionalism. By supporting the new accreditation program, this shows that as a profession made up of men and women, civilian and sworn, we are all working together to bring the standards of law enforcement in this State to a new level."

The NH Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council extend our deepest appreciation to Governor Christopher T. Sununu, the Executive Council, and the State Legislature for their unwavering support of New Hampshire law enforcement. It is through this leadership and the efforts of the LEACT Commission, the New Hampshire Attorney General, the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, and the accreditation working group, New Hampshire now joins approximately 36 states that have a functioning state law enforcement accreditation program.