



**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

HOUSE BILL 960: Local Law Enforcement/Citizens Academies.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary II	Date:	May 21, 2018
Introduced by:	Reps. Faircloth, Boles, Speciale	Prepared by:	Shawn Middlebrooks Susan Sitze Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 960 would authorize the chief of police of a local police department or a county sheriff to establish a citizen academy program to assist with community safety and security.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 960 would authorize the chief of police for a local police department (**Section 1**) or sheriff (**Section 2**) to establish a citizen academy program. The program would educate members about department operations and prepare members to provide volunteer services as approved by the law enforcement agency. All programs established under this act should to follow a pre-established curriculum that includes instruction on the recognition and reporting of criminal behavior, threats, terrorism, and other acts of violence.

The local police department or sheriff's office would be required to conduct criminal background checks on prospective volunteers. Volunteers with prior criminal convictions, pending criminal charges, or who have been dishonorably discharged from the armed services would be excluded from participating in the program.

Graduates of the program may be used to provide operational in-service support to the department for purposes of community safety and security. No volunteer may be armed while providing in-service support unless the volunteer has successfully completed basic law enforcement training and is authorized in writing by the sponsoring law enforcement agency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

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