

Chapter 05: Certification Based on Equivalency of Training Re-qualification

adopted - 04/2003; rev - 05/2009

- 100 PURPOSE** This section establishes policy and procedures governing the for certification of detention officers ~~who have an established record of experience, training and education. The Board will establish procedures to review the record of those officers whose certification has lapsed and those officers who have training and experience in another jurisdiction (e.g., federal service).~~
- 101 POLICY** The Board shall ~~evaluate each applicant's documented record of experience, education and training. The accomplishments in each area shall be weighed to compare the applicant's credentials with the current standards for professional certification certify as detention officers those persons who meet the employment guidelines and re-qualify by successfully completing the current standardized detention officer course of the Jail Officer Training Program.~~
- 101.01 The certification ~~status~~ of any detention officer shall lapse after a break in service of more than two years. ~~Officers who have had basic as in 101.03 below and meet the employment guidelines will be eligible to complete a detention officer examination to restore their certification.~~
- 101.02 ~~All transfer applicants applying for certification under Equivalency of Training must have completed training as defined in paragraph 101.03. Applicants who were excluded or "grand-fathered" under the provisions of another state are not eligible for any exclusion in Mississippi. All individuals applying for certification under this chapter from federal jurisdictions must have completed a detention officer training program as defined in paragraph 101.03. If a detention officer, who is grand-fathered under the program, leaves employment as a detention officer and does not become a detention officer within two years, the officer will be required to meet all the requirements of the Jail Officer Training Program.~~
- 101.03 ~~Officers must have successfully completed an acceptable basic detention officer training course to be eligible for certification based on equivalency of training. Officers who have not met this requirement must complete the basic course to obtain certification. An acceptable basic detention officer training course shall be defined as one that meets an approved state standard for mandated detention officer training and/or meets or exceeds the National Sheriff's Association curriculum standards. Other detention officer training courses such as those presented under state or federal jurisdictions (MDOC, DOD, FBI, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Customs, etc.) may be approved by the Board as acceptable basic training courses. Detention officers trained or certified by other jurisdictions are required to meet all the requirements of the Jail Officer Training Program.~~
- 101.04 ~~In situations where the course predated state statutory requirements for detention officer training or the course was administered by a federal detention officer training agency, the course curriculum will be compared to the Mississippi~~

curriculum: Correctional Officers, who successfully complete the Mississippi Department of Corrections' training program after May 13, 2004, that meet the current employment guidelines shall be certified without further training, if the officer does not have a break in detention employment of more than two years.

1. ~~Acceptable courses include written and hands-on examinations. Candidates must have passed all course requirements or achieved a minimum score of seventy percent, whichever is higher.~~
- 101.05 Any officer, certified in this state, whose break in service was due to serving as a detention officer in another state or federal jurisdiction may restore their certification provided that the break in service is not more than four years.
1. Applicants must have completed the basic detention officer course ~~as in 101.03 above~~ and met the current employment guidelines.
 2. Applicants must have not had a break in service of more than four years.
 3. Applicants must have served in a full-time capacity as a detention officer in one of the following positions (or other position as approved by the Board):
 - a. A municipal, county or other detention officer appointed or employed full-time in a recognized political subdivision of any state, province or territory of the United States of America who has as their primary duty the detention of inmates.
 - b. An agent, officer or other detention officer appointed or employed full-time by the United States Department of Justice or subdivisions, the Department of Defense or its recognized military service branches, the Department of the Interior or the District of Columbia who has as their primary duty the detention of inmates.
- 101.06 ~~The detention officer examination shall consist of local content and Board test material including legal matters, technological changes and all knowledge domains contained in the basic detention officer course:~~
- ~~1. The test shall be administered under a local proctor. Agencies must prepare their local content of the test and administer both the local and Board portions of the test. The applicant must score seventy percent (70%) on both the local and Board sections.~~
 - ~~2. The Board test shall be developed and maintained by the staff. The staff shall also develop and implement testing distribution and administration procedures.~~
- 101.07 It is incumbent upon the detention officer's training agency to ensure that all officers obtain certification within established time limits. Employers should ensure that all applications for certification are submitted on a timely basis. Once the staff has provided instructions for the certification of a particular officer, employers should ~~encourage their personnel to attempt testing/ enrolling their officer in training programs~~ the approved course so that each officer will be assured of

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completing any and all requirements within the two-year period.

102 PROCEDURE All procedures applicable to certification for newly employed officers must be followed ~~in seeking to re-qualify for certification based on equivalency training~~. In addition to the forms required for the certification process, the employer shall provide documentation of detention officer training (copies of certificates, etc.). The Board staff will authenticate all documents submitted to the Board from other jurisdictions. The employer shall be prepared to submit the curriculum for training completed in another jurisdiction. The staff will request curriculums as needed for the Board files. ~~Once an officer has been deemed eligible to complete the test, the department head will be notified by the Board.~~