

HB 494 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

SPONSOR: Christ

Beginning August 28, 2025, the Board of Police Commissioners will assume control of the municipal police department of St. Louis and, no later than September 28, 2025, four citizen commissioners will be appointed to the Board, as provided in the bill, to serve with the mayor as the governing body of the police force. The Board will have the power to appoint the chief of police, determine appeals from the decisions of the chief of police, and to promulgate rules for the department.

Additionally, until the Board adopts other investigative and disciplinary procedures, the police force will follow the disciplinary and investigative procedures established by the Police Manual of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department that are consistent with law.

This bill provides that the city of St. Louis may pass ordinances, including ordinances for preserving order and protecting the public, but no ordinance, charter provision, or initiative petition can conflict or interfere with the powers or the exercise of the powers of the Board of Police Commissioners. Additionally, the mayor or any city officer must not impede or hinder the Board of Police Commissioners. The mayor or any city officer will be liable for a penalty of \$1,000 for each offense to hinder the Board and will forever be disqualified from holding or exercising any office of the city.

The salaries paid as of August 28, 2025, will not be less than the annual salaries paid to each member before the enactment of this bill. No additional compensation will be given to any officer of the rank of lieutenant or above for overtime, court time, or stand-by court time. The bill specifies provisions related to compensation and other employment benefits for all positions on the police force.

This bill provides that reimbursements from the Legal Expense Fund to the Board for liability claims will be on an equal share basis per claim up to a maximum of \$1 million per fiscal year.

The bill repeals provisions relating to the municipal police force established by the city of St. Louis and other provisions relating to procedures of the Board.

This bill is similar to SCS HCS HB 1481 (2024).