

Compensation of Police and Sheriffs Task Force (COPS)

Lt. Governor Cagle understands that in order to best protect the citizens of Georgia, provide constitutional oversight of local jails, and operate local courts, local law enforcement agencies must be able to attract highly qualified individuals to careers in criminal justice, while retaining the well-trained and experienced officers who are currently serving our communities. Therefore, it is the Lt. Governor's intent to ensure that the State of Georgia, in partnership with local governments and sheriffs, identify and implement needed reforms to strengthen and enhance the compensation packages of our local law enforcement offices and agencies.

The COPS Task Force will:

- Examine current compensation and benefits of Georgia's local law enforcement officers.
- Listen to ideas and concerns from local law enforcement agencies and governments regarding compensation of local officers.
- Review retention issues and determine which steps are required to attract individuals to the criminal justice profession, and to combat turnover rates within the field.
- Compare and evaluate compensation of local law enforcement in other states.
- Explore current and potential revenue streams that support local law enforcement agencies (Georgia and surrounding states.)
- Review local mandates that restrict resources from going to law enforcement compensation or cause unnecessary and burdensome requirements.
- Make recommendations to ACCG, GMA, GSA, GACP and the General Assembly for the 2018 session.

Task Force Members: Chair – Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, Co-Chair –Greg Kirk

State Senators: Tyler Harper, Jack Hill, John Wilkinson, Steve Gooch and Tonya Anderson

Staff: Support will be requested from ACCG, GMA, Chiefs Association, Sheriffs Association and Senate Research.

Local Officials:

County/Sheriff: Three local officials selected by the ACCG, and three Sheriffs selected by the Georgia Sheriffs Association.

City/Police: Three selected by the GA Municipal Association/three local police chiefs selected by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

Meetings: Initial meeting **June 19, 10:00 AM at the Georgia State Capitol** – Task Force to schedule remaining meetings for continued discussions and provide recommendations as needed.

As appropriate, the Task Force will hold separate meetings with ACCG/Sheriffs and GMA/Chiefs/Police.