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HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY

124 N. Capitol Avenue
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HB5341 AS PASSED BY THE SENATE

Sponsor: Rep. Ken Bradstreet

Committee: HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND
OPERATIONS

Analyst(s): Risko, Robin

Completed: 12/6/01

State Fiscal Impact

Cost: None
Revenues: None

Local Fiscal Impact

Cost: None
Revenues: None

House Bill 5341 establishes the "Legislative Sergeant at Arms Police Powers Act." The bill would authorize the Legislature to commission the Sergeants at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms as police officers. Commissioned Sergeants at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms would be vested with the same powers, privileges, prerogatives, and immunities as other police officers of the state, only while actually engaging in their duties as Sergeants at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms, and while in the following locations: the Capitol Building; the Capitol Building grounds; buildings in which offices of legislators or staff are located; locations where committee or subcommittee meetings, sessions, or public hearings are taking place; legislative parking areas; and areas immediately adjacent to all of the areas described above.

House Bill 5341 would authorize the Senate to delegate the authority to commission Senate sergeants as police officers to the Senate Majority Leader, the Secretary of the Senate, or other officers or employees of the Senate. The House would be authorized to delegate the authority to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or other officers or employees of the House.

The bill would declare the Office of Sergeant at Arms, of each house of the Legislature, a law enforcement agency of the state; require the individuals designated to supervise the House and Senate Sergeants at Arms to report to the House Oversight and Operations Committee and the Senate Government Operations Committee at least once per legislative session; subject Sergeants at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms to the training and certification requirements contained in the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards Act; and tie-bar the bill to House Bill 5342.

The bill would have a minimal fiscal impact on the state, depending on the number of Sergeants at Arms and Assistant Sergeants at Arms who are commissioned as police officers. Currently, over half of the House and Senate sergeants have met training and certification requirements in the past. Costs would be associated with recertification of the sergeants, which costs approximately \$850 per officer, and with the purchase of specialized equipment. However, it should be noted that these costs would be absorbed through existing resources.