

Police force for all purposes and under all provisions of law, with certain specified exceptions.

Section 1(b) of the bill authorizes the Commissioner to make rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of the bill, including rules and regulations governing suspension or dismissal of reserve officers, with or without trial, and regulations governing the possession, carrying and use of weapons (including firearms) by reserve officers.

Section 2(a) provides that the provisions of law commonly referred to as the "Federal Employees' Compensation Act" (5 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) shall apply in cases of injury or death of reserve officers. Since the reserve officers are not compensated under the bill, they are deemed to have a monthly pay of one-twelfth of the current annual rate of basic compensation for a police private, class 1, subclass (a), in the Metropolitan Police Department, modified according to the length of service, for the purposes of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

Section 2(b) makes applicable to reserve officers the provisions of section 8116(c) of title 5, providing that "the liability of the United States or an instrumentality thereof" under the so-called Federal Employees' Compensation Act shall be exclusive. Further, in view of the fact that employees of the District of Columbia are subject to the provisions of the Act, in like manner and to the same extent as Federal employees (5 U.S.C. 8101), the limiting language in section 8116(c), making as it does, a distinction between the United States and the District of Columbia, appears to be an inadvertence. Accordingly, in order to provide for the equal treatment of Federal and District employees, insofar as the liability of both governments under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act is concerned, section 2(b) of the bill provides that the term "United States" as used in the above-quoted phrase from section 8116(c) shall be deemed to include the District of Columbia.

The District government believes that the objective of the bill in permitting trained volunteers to assume certain active police duties with the Metropolitan Police Department, and in freeing regular police officers for more comprehensive protection of the District, is a desirable one. The use of police reserves in this fashion can be expected to contribute greatly to the District's fight against crime and to provide an effective tool in this effort. It is not, however, contemplated that the reserve officers will be utilized in such manner as to require them to deal directly with persons committing the more serious criminal acts. Nor will they engage in actions which require highly professional performance on the part of a regular member of the Metropolitan Police force. The reserve officers will supplement, but will not be a substitute for, the regular members of the force, and, while they may accompany the regular members of the force in the performance of the duties of such regular members, the reserve officers will be used only for those duties for which they are trained and qualified.

Reserve officers will not be:

- Used for patrol duty in the high crime areas of the District;
- Assigned to riot duty;
- Permitted to make or participate in any search or seizure; or
- Utilized for any police duty requiring a high level of qualified police performance.

Notwithstanding the foregoing limitations on the use of the reserve officers, it can nevertheless be expected that they will make a substantial contribution toward the solution of the crime problem in the District, by freeing from the performance of routine police duties the regular members of the Metropolitan Police force, thereby allowing their use in high crime areas or in police activities requiring the use of highly qualified personnel.

Of equal and perhaps even greater importance, the establishment of a police reserve corps comprised of persons who may be assigned to perform their duties in those areas of the city in which may be located their residences or places of employment or business, of necessity will bring the community into a closer relationship with the Metropolitan Police force and promote better community-police relations.

I believe that the benefits to be derived from the bill, as set forth above, will exceed considerably the cost of establishing such a program, estimated at \$224,000 for the first year, based on providing uniforms and equipment for 700 members of the reserve, while the subsequent annual cost may approximate \$70,000.

I am advised by the Bureau of the Budget that enactment of this legislation would be consistent with the Administration's objectives.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS W. FLETCHER,
Assistant to the Commissioner
 (For Walter E. Washington, Commissioner).