

Press Releases

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Senator Coyne appointed as Commissioner of public safety accreditation organization

STATE HOUSE — Sen. Cynthia A. Coyne (D-Dist. 32, Barrington, Bristol, East Providence) has been appointed as a Commissioner of CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.



CALEA was established as an independent accrediting authority in 1979 by the four major law enforcement executive associations: the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA); and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). The commission has 21 members, including 11 law enforcement practitioners and 10 members from the public and private sectors. The commissioners are appointed to a term of three years.

"For one who has spent a career in law enforcement, with several years in the field of accreditation, appointment as a CALEA Commissioner is a particular honor," said Senator Coyne, whose term as a commissioner begins Jan. 1, 2016. "As communities across the nation demand that their police departments follow best practices, identifying those practices, creating national standards, and evaluating compliance is critical to ensuring the public's confidence is well placed."

CALEA serves to develop standards for public safety agencies and administer a complementary accreditation processes. Program offerings currently include accreditation for law enforcement agencies, public safety communications and training academies, and most recently, campus security organizations. These voluntary accreditation programs provide a modern management model for public safety agencies on an international basis, and are a blueprint for developing industry recognized best practices. Among other duties, CALEA Commissioners review the applications of law enforcement agencies to become accredited or reaccredited, as well as the results of on-site assessments of those agencies.

Senator Coyne currently serves on the Committees for Health and Human Services and the Environment and Agriculture. Previously, Senator Coyne was elected to the Barrington Town Council and served as a member of the Rhode Island State Police, retiring as a lieutenant in 2006 following a 20-year career with the organization. She holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Rhode Island in political science and economics, a bachelor of science from Roger Williams University in administration of justice, and she is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

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