



**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

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MEMORANDUM

To: Legislative Research Committee

From: Frank Jemley, III
Acting Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Date: October 31, 2018

Subject: Annual Professional Standards Update per KRS 235.312

In compliance with KRS 235.312, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Division is pleased to report that several new initiatives have been undertaken by the Division since Colonel Eric Gibson joined the Department in June to lead the Division.

- Colonel Gibson held three division meetings across the Commonwealth to explain the administration's expectations for the Department's conservation officers and the importance of professionalism and teamwork in today's law enforcement environment.
- The Division has worked with personnel to adopt procedures for random drug testing for all officers, which will begin in 2019.
- New, increased-capability body cameras were issued to all officers, replacing an outdated camera system that was increasingly problematic.
- Drafting has begun of a new Law Enforcement policy manual that will be compliant for accreditation. The policy manual will be completed in early 2019, and will spell out new standards for the division.
- The Division has seen an increased drug presence on and around the waterways of the Commonwealth and on our public lands (wildlife management areas). The opioid epidemic has made clear the need for Narcan training for all conservation officers, so they are equipped and



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trained to save lives if they encounter overdose victims. The Narcan carried by officers will be funded by a grant to the Department.

In short, a great deal has been accomplished in FY18 and to date in FY19 to improve the professionalism of the Department's conservation officers and their contribution to public safety.