

1 officers including minimum age, education, physical and mental standards, citizenship, good
2 moral character, experience, and such other matters as relate to the competence and reliability
3 of persons to assume and discharge the responsibilities of the office, and the Commission shall
4 prescribe the means for presenting evidence of fulfillment of these requirements.

5 Where minimum educational standards are not met, yet the individual shows potential and a
6 willingness to achieve the standards by extra study, they may be waived by the Commission for
7 the reasonable amount of time it will take to achieve the standards required. Upon petition from
8 a sheriff, the Commission may grant a waiver of any provisions of this section (17E-7) for any
9 justice officer serving that sheriff.

10 (c1) Any justice officer appointed as a telecommunicator at the entry level after March 1,
11 1998, shall meet all requirements of this Chapter. Any person employed in the capacity of a
12 telecommunicator as defined by the Commission on or before March 1, 1998, shall not be
13 required to meet any entry-level requirements as a condition of continued employment but shall
14 be reported to the Commission for certification. All justice officers who are exempted from the
15 required entry-level standards by this subsection are subject to the requirements of subsections
16 (b) and (c) of this section as well as the requirements of G.S. 17E-4(a) in order to retain
17 certification.

18 (c2) Effective July 1, 2019, any person employed as a telecommunicator by a municipal
19 police agency shall meet all the requirements of this Chapter. Entry-level telecommunicators
20 shall successfully complete, as determined by the agency, the entry-level telecommunicator
21 course of instruction provided either pursuant to this Chapter or by the Association of Public
22 Safety Communications Officials Institute.

23 (d) The Commission may issue a certificate evidencing satisfaction of the requirements
24 of subsections (b), (c), and (c1) of this section to any applicant who presents such evidence as
25 may be required by its rules and regulations of satisfactory completion of a program or course
26 of instruction in another jurisdiction."

27 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.