

**Minimum Qualifications [*For a Law Enforcement Officer or Deputy in Virginia*]; Waiver  
Code of Virginia, § 15.2-1705**

- A. The chief of police and all police officers of any county, city, or town, all deputy sheriffs in this Commonwealth and all law enforcement officers as defined in 9-169 who enter upon the duties of such office after July 1, 1988, are required to meet the following minimum qualifications for office. Such person shall:
  - (I) be a citizen of the United States,
  - (ii) be required to undergo a background investigation including a fingerprint-based criminal history records inquiry to the Central Criminal Records Exchange,
  - (iii) have a high school education or have passed the General Education Development exam,
  - (iv) possess a valid Virginia driver's license if required by the duties of office to operate a motor vehicle, and
  - (v) undergo a physical examination conducted under the supervision of a licensed physician.
- B. Upon request of a sheriff or chief of police, or the director or chief executive of any agency or departmental employing law-enforcement officers as defined in 9-169, the Department of Criminal Justice Services is hereby authorized to waive the requirements for qualification as set out in subsection A of this section for the good cause shown.