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## **CONCEPTS AND FEATURES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES**

**Significance of the research.** Ukraine has clearly identified itself as an independent democratic social and legal state. Relevant priorities are reflected in the state policy of Ukraine and its aspirations to be a full member of the democratic European Community.

Today we experience a deep political crisis and a total loss of public confidence in public administration authorities. Accordingly, the situation has arisen when law enforcement agencies are not able to do the assigned tasks effectively. High level of corruption of personnel in combination with insufficient budget funding changed the police into outdated law enforcement agencies and a body with an extremely low level of public confidence.

The issues of law enforcement agencies efficiency were considered by domestic and foreign scientists: Burbika M.M., Delia Yu.V., Kvasha V.V., Lapkin A.V., Ostrovsky S.O. and others.

Law enforcement agencies occupy a leading place among other state bodies, as they are aimed at protecting the rights, freedoms and interests of a human and citizen, proclaimed by the Constitution of Ukraine, laws and international treaties of Ukraine, preventing their violation and promoting the latter, carrying out operational and service activities, providing the equality of all people under the law, preventing discrimination in the sphere of human realization of their rights and legitimating interests, ensuring legal awareness of the population, protection of personal data and promoting the development of international cooperation in the field of human rights and freedoms [1, p. 24].

The study of the concept of «law enforcement» draws a lot of attention among scientists. Burbyka M.M. defines law enforcement agencies as follows: «These are state bodies entrusted with the implementation of one or more law enforcement functions by legislative acts, for which their implementation is the main and daily task» [2, p. 10].

It is interesting to define this category as «a jurisdictional body authorized by Ukrainian society to perform functions or tasks of law and order in the manner prescribed by law, investigation or prevention of violations, restoration of violated rights, protection of national (state) security, maintenance of law-and-order legality» [3, c. 9].

Ostrovsky S.O. points out that law enforcement agencies are state institutions that operate in the system of public authorities, perform public functions in the spheres of internal and external activities of the state, as well as ensure the implementation of rights, freedoms, interests of citizens, compliance with rules, procedures established by law, law enforcement and respect for legitimacy and the rule of law [4, p. 49].

There is another interpretation of this category by Lapkin A.V. The scientist emphasizes that these are special authorized state bodies that have power and protect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens, the state and society as a whole [5, p. 12].

It is necessary to look into the features of law enforcement agencies: 1) it is a state body formed to protect the law; 2) they act on the basis of a special law or other regulations; 3) they exercise their powers in compliance with the procedure in strict accordance with the law; 4) they are endowed with state powers; 5) their competence includes the use of state coercion [5, p. 12].

Thus, from the above mentioned we can draw certain conclusions that law enforcement agencies are state bodies that perform law enforcement tasks, functions and powers. Their main

goals are to protect and defend the rights, freedoms and interests of citizens, as well as prevent criminal infringement.

Therefore, these bodies carry out the following functions: prevention of offenses entailing legal liability, protection of life, health, rights, freedoms and legal interests of individuals, protection of order, public safety and property, administrative supervision of persons released from prisons, operational and investigative activities, investigation of crimes, execution of sentences, decisions, rulings of courts, decisions of bodies of inquiry and pre-trial investigation and prosecutors, establishing of the events and circumstances of crimes, as well as the perpetrators, the bodies of pre-trial investigation, support of public prosecution in court, provision of legal assistance, such as clarifying the law, providing of legal consultancy by the bar and notary.

Summing all it up, the necessity arises to legislate the concept of «law enforcement agencies» and, taking this into account, in regulations clearly define their functions, the main tasks arising from them, and minimize the number of such structures which will reduce their maintenance costs as a result.

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### FORENSIC SCIENCE IN UKRAINE: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

Significant changes in criminal proceedings that took place after the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine (2012) had come into force and a number of reforms in criminal justice led to the emergence of new principles, regulations and procedures for investigating and prosecuting of criminal offenses. As a result, the conditions, requirements and procedures for the application of forensic tools and methods have been

transformed so far. The above mentioned cause some problems in law enforcement practice, namely the application of knowledge in forensic science by the subjects of criminal proceedings. Therefore, the demands of practice highlight the need for developing the proper means, techniques and methods of combating crime, which are relevant to our modern conditions and can be implemented into practice.