

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

34-1475-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to law enforcement academies;  
 3           amending s. 943.14, F.S.; requiring a  
 4           background check prior to entrance into a  
 5           basic-recruit class; amending s. 943.17, F.S.;  
 6           requiring basic-recruit candidates to pass a  
 7           basic skills examination; providing an  
 8           effective date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12           Section 1. Present subsection (8) of section 943.14,  
 13 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new  
 14 subsection (8) is added to that section to read:

15           943.14 Criminal justice training schools; certificates  
 16 and diplomas; exemptions; injunctive relief; fines.--

17           (8)(a) Each criminal-justice-training school that  
 18 provides law enforcement, correctional, or correctional  
 19 probation officer basic-recruit training, or each selection  
 20 center that provides applicant screening for  
 21 criminal-justice-training schools, shall conduct a background  
 22 check of each applicant before the applicant enters the  
 23 basic-recruit class. A complete set of fingerprints shall be  
 24 taken by an authorized criminal-justice agency or by an  
 25 employee of the school or selection center who is trained to  
 26 take fingerprints. The school or selection center shall submit  
 27 the fingerprints to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
 28 for a statewide criminal-history check and shall also submit  
 29 the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a  
 30 national criminal-history check.

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1           (b) Applicants who have been found guilty of a crime  
2 that would render them unable to meet the minimum  
3 qualifications for employment as an officer pursuant to s.  
4 943.13(4) shall be removed from the pool of qualified  
5 candidates.

6           Section 2. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of  
7 section 943.17, Florida Statutes, to read:

8           943.17 Basic recruit, advanced, and career development  
9 training programs; participation; cost; evaluation.--The  
10 commission shall, by rule, design, implement, maintain,  
11 evaluate, and revise job-related curricula and performance  
12 standards for basic recruit, advanced, and career development  
13 training programs and courses. The rules shall include, but  
14 are not limited to, a methodology to assess relevance of the  
15 subject matter to the job, student performance, and instructor  
16 competency.

17           (1) The commission shall:

18           (g) Assure that entrance into the  
19 basic-recruit-training program for law enforcement,  
20 correctional, and correctional probation officers is limited  
21 to persons who have passed a basic-skills examination and  
22 assessment instrument based on a job-task analysis in each  
23 discipline and adopted by the commission.

24           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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27           SENATE SUMMARY

28           Requires a background check of applicants for  
29           basic-recruit training and requires basic-recruit  
30           candidates to pass a basic-skills examination.