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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to law enforcement officer training;
 amending s. 943.16, F.S.; requiring trainees attending
 approved basic recruit training programs to reimburse an
 employing agency for tuition, other course expenses,
 wages, and benefits paid by the agency if the employee
 terminates his or her employment or appointment within a
 specified time period after graduation; providing a
 schedule for reimbursement of a trainee's wages and
 benefits; authorizing an employing agency to institute
 civil action under certain circumstances; providing
 definitions; providing applicability; authorizing an
 employing agency to waive reimbursement requirements
 under certain circumstances; providing a conditional
 effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 943.16, Florida
 Statutes, is amended, and subsections (4), (5), (6), and (7)
 are added to said section, to read:

943.16 Payment of tuition or officer certification
 examination fee by employing agency; reimbursement of tuition,
 other course expenses, wages, and benefits.--

(2)(a) A trainee who attends such approved training
 program at the expense of an employing agency must remain in
 the employment or appointment of such employing agency for a
 period of not less than 2 years ~~1 year~~. If employment or
 appointment is terminated on the trainee's own initiative
 within 2 years ~~1 year~~, he or she shall reimburse the employing



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31 agency for the full cost of his or her ~~participation; and such~~
 32 ~~employing agency may institute a civil action to collect such~~
 33 ~~tuition cost if it is not reimbursed~~ tuition, other course
 34 expenses, and additional amounts as provided in paragraph (b).

35 (b) In addition to reimbursement for the full cost of
 36 tuition and other course expenses, a trainee terminating
 37 employment as provided in paragraph (a) shall reimburse the
 38 employing agency for the trainee's wages and benefits paid by
 39 the employing agency during the academy training period
 40 according to the following schedule:

41 1. For a trainee terminating employment within 6 months
 42 of graduation from the basic recruit training program, the
 43 full amount of wages and benefits paid during the academy
 44 training period.

45 2. For a trainee terminating employment within 6 months
 46 and 1 day to 12 months of graduation from the basic recruit
 47 training program, an amount equal to three-fourths of the full
 48 amount of wages and benefits paid during the academy training
 49 period.

50 3. For a trainee terminating employment within 12 months
 51 and 1 day to 18 months of graduation from the basic recruit
 52 training program, an amount equal to one-half of the full
 53 amount of wages and benefits paid during the academy training
 54 period.

55 4. For a trainee terminating employment within 18 months
 56 and 1 day to 24 months of graduation from the basic recruit
 57 training program, an amount equal to one-fourth of the full
 58 amount of wages and benefits paid during the academy training
 59 period.



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60 (4) An employing agency may institute a civil action to
 61 collect such cost of tuition, other course expenses, wages,
 62 and benefits as provided in this section if it is not
 63 reimbursed, provided that the employing agency gave written
 64 notification to the trainee of the 2-year employment
 65 commitment during the employment screening process. The
 66 trainee shall return signed acknowledgement of receipt of such
 67 notification.

68 (5) For purposes of this section, "academy training
 69 period" means the period of time that a trainee is attending
 70 an approved basic recruit training program in a law
 71 enforcement or correctional officer academy class for purposes
 72 of obtaining certification pursuant to chapter 943, until the
 73 date of graduation from such class. The term "other course
 74 expenses" includes the cost of meals.

75 (6) This section does not apply to trainees who
 76 terminate employment with the employing agency and resign
 77 their certification upon termination in order to obtain
 78 employment for which certification under chapter 943 is not
 79 required. Further, this section does not apply to trainees
 80 attending auxiliary officer training.

81 (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an
 82 employing agency may waive a trainee's requirement of
 83 reimbursement in part or in full when the trainee terminates
 84 employment due to hardship or extenuating circumstances.

85 Section 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2003,
 86 and shall apply to basic recruit training classes commencing
 87 after that date.