

By Senator Crist

12-1404A-03

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to law enforcement officer  
3           training; amending s. 943.16, F.S.; providing  
4           for reimbursement of tuition, wages, and  
5           benefits by a law enforcement trainee who  
6           terminates his or her employment in an  
7           employing agency's basic recruit training  
8           program; authorizing an employing agency to  
9           commence a civil action for its reimbursement;  
10          providing exceptions; providing an effective  
11          date.

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

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15           Section 1. Section 943.16, Florida Statutes, is  
16 amended to read:

17           943.16 Payment of tuition or officer certification  
18 examination fee by employing agency; reimbursement of tuition,  
19 other course expenses, wages, and benefits.--

20           (1) An employing agency is authorized to pay any costs  
21 of tuition of a trainee in attendance at an approved basic  
22 recruit training program.

23           (2)(a) A trainee who attends such approved training  
24 program at the expense of an employing agency must remain in  
25 the employment or appointment of such employing agency for a  
26 period of not less than 2 years ~~1 year~~. If employment or  
27 appointment is terminated on the trainee's own initiative  
28 within 2 years ~~1 year~~, he or she shall reimburse the employing  
29 agency for the full cost of his or her tuition, other course  
30 expenses, and additional amounts as provided in paragraph (b)

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1 ~~participation; and such employing agency may institute a civil~~  
2 ~~action to collect such tuition cost if it is not reimbursed.~~

3 (b) In addition to reimbursement for the full cost of  
4 tuition and other course expenses, a trainee terminating  
5 employment as provided in paragraph (a) shall reimburse the  
6 employing agency for the trainee's wages and benefits paid by  
7 the employing agency during the academy training period  
8 according to the following schedule:

9 1. For a trainee terminating employment within 6  
10 months after graduation from the basic recruit training  
11 program, the full amount of wages and benefits paid during the  
12 academy training period.

13 2. For a trainee terminating employment within 12  
14 months after graduation from the basic recruit training  
15 program, an amount equal to three-fourths of the full amount  
16 of wages and benefits paid during the academy training period.

17 3. For a trainee terminating employment within 18  
18 months after graduation from the basic recruit training  
19 program, an amount equal to one-half of the full amount of  
20 wages and benefits paid during the academy training period.

21 4. For a trainee terminating employment within 24  
22 months after graduation from the basic recruit training  
23 program, an amount equal to one-fourth of the full amount of  
24 wages and benefits paid during the academy training period.

25 (3) An employing agency is authorized to pay the  
26 required fee for an applicant to take the officer  
27 certification examination on one occasion.

28 (4) An employing agency may institute a civil action  
29 to collect the cost of tuition, other course expenses, wages,  
30 and benefits as provided in this section if it is not  
31 reimbursed provided that the employing agency notified the

1 trainee of the 2-year employment commitment no later than the  
2 first day on which classes commenced for basic recruit  
3 training.

4 (5) For purposes of this section, the term "academy  
5 training period" means the period of time during which the  
6 trainee is attending an approved basic recruit training  
7 program in a law enforcement or correctional officer academy  
8 class for purposes of obtaining certification under chapter  
9 943, until the date of graduation from the class. The term  
10 "other course expenses" includes the cost of meals.

11 (6) This section does not apply to a trainee who  
12 terminates employment with the employing agency and resigns  
13 his or her certification upon termination in order to obtain  
14 employment for which certification under chapter 943 is not  
15 required. This section does not apply to a trainee attending  
16 auxiliary officer training.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003,  
18 and applies to basic recruit training classes commencing after  
19 that date.

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22 SENATE SUMMARY

23 Provides for reimbursement of tuition, wages, and  
24 benefits by a law enforcement trainee who terminates his  
25 employment in an employing agency's basic recruit  
26 training program. Authorizes an employing agency to  
27 commence a civil action to collect its reimbursement.

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