

By Senator Bullard

39-1623-05

See HB

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Crisis Intervention Team program; providing for adoption of the program as a pilot program; directing the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida to conduct a study of the Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) program; providing the purpose of the study; providing for a report; providing for funding; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to reduce the number of arrests for people with serious mental illnesses and reduce the use of force-related injuries involving people with serious mental illnesses. Therefore, the Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to adopt the Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) program as a pilot program to provide lessons for its statewide use by other law enforcement agencies.

Section 2. The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida shall conduct a study of the Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) program being used by the members of the Florida C.I.T. Coalition, which is a coalition of several counties involving law enforcement agencies, community providers, and families and consumers developing the core standards for a consistent C.I.T. program for the state. The purpose of the study is to look at the effectiveness of the C.I.T. program related to a reduction in arrests for people with serious mental illnesses as well as an

1 increase in jail diversion activities, a reduction in the use  
2 of force-related injuries, and identification of those core  
3 elements of the C.I.T. program that make it an effective  
4 police response. The institute, in conjunction with the  
5 Florida C.I.T. Coalition, shall submit a report of the  
6 findings of its study, which shall include recommendations as  
7 to whether the C.I.T. program should be adopted by all law  
8 enforcement agencies as a best practice, recommendations as to  
9 the resources necessary to assist communities in adopting the  
10 C.I.T. program, and recommendations as to other training needs  
11 for law enforcement agencies related to people with serious  
12 mental illnesses, to the Legislature and the Department of Law  
13 Enforcement by July 1, 2006.

14           Section 3. The Department of Law Enforcement is  
15 authorized to use up to \$175,000 to contract with the Louis de  
16 la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to implement this  
17 act.

18           Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
19 law.

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