

HB 613

2006

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to police pursuits of fleeing vehicles;
3 requiring the Criminal Justice Standards and Training
4 Commission to establish a model policy governing the
5 pursuit of fleeing vehicles by law enforcement officers;
6 establishing model policy guidelines; requiring state and
7 local law enforcement agencies to adopt policies for
8 vehicle pursuits; requiring officer training in vehicle-
9 pursuit policies; providing a penalty; providing an
10 effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. (1) By July 1, 2007, the Criminal Justice
15 Standards and Training Commission within the Department of Law
16 Enforcement shall adopt a model policy governing the conduct of
17 law enforcement officers who are pursuing a vehicle that is
18 fleeing a law enforcement officer. The commission shall consider
19 comments from the public when adopting the policy. The model
20 policy shall, at a minimum, contain the following components:

21 (a) A statement describing that the philosophy of the
22 model policy is that the safety of persons affected by a vehicle
23 pursuit is of primary importance. It must also balance the risks
24 of a vehicle pursuit to the public and law enforcement officers
25 with the consequences of the failure to pursue such vehicle.

26 (b) The factors to consider before initiating or
27 terminating a vehicle pursuit and the standards for determining
28 whether to initiate or terminate a vehicle pursuit.

HB 613

2006

29 (c) The procedures, tactics, and technologies used during
30 vehicle pursuits.

31 (d) The responsibilities of the pursuing officers, the
32 officers supervising the pursuit, the dispatcher, and air
33 support personnel.

34 (e) The procedures governing interjurisdictional pursuits.

35 (f) The procedures governing the care of any person
36 injured during the pursuit.

37 (g) The contents of pursuit reports.

38 (h) The procedures used to evaluate each pursuit.

39 (2) Each state and local law enforcement agency must:

40 (a) Establish a written policy governing the conduct of
41 the agency's law enforcement officers who pursue a fleeing
42 vehicle. The policy must, at a minimum, comply with the
43 requirements of the model pursuit policy adopted by the
44 commission and must consider the public comments and any
45 technology for pursuit vehicles which is available.

46 (b) Certify annually to the commission that it has adopted
47 a written policy in compliance with the model pursuit policy.

48 (3) The board shall assist each state and local law
49 enforcement agency in developing and implementing pursuit
50 policies.

51 (4) (a) By July 1, 2007, the commission shall prepare
52 learning objectives for instructing law enforcement officers in
53 emergency vehicle operations and in the conduct of vehicle
54 pursuits. The course shall consist of at least 7 hours of
55 classroom and skills-based training.

56 (b) A person who has not received the training required by

HB 613

2006

57 this section may not take any examination for licensure as a law
58 enforcement officer on or after July 1, 2007.

59 (5) Each state and local law enforcement agency shall
60 provide in-service training in emergency vehicle operations and
61 in the conduct of vehicle pursuits to all law enforcement
62 officers employed by the agency who may be involved in a vehicle
63 pursuit, based on the officers' responsibilities. The training
64 must comply with learning objectives approved by the commission
65 and shall consist of at least 8 hours of classroom and skills-
66 based training every 3 years.

67 (6) The commission may impose licensing sanctions and seek
68 injunctive relief for the failure of an agency to comply with
69 the requirements of this act.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.