

HB 1057

2015

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to law enforcement training; providing  
3 legislative findings; requiring Florida Agricultural  
4 and Mechanical University and Florida Memorial  
5 University to establish the Law Enforcement Academy  
6 for Diverse Communities; specifying minimum  
7 requirements for the academy's curriculum; authorizing  
8 the academy to perform additional functions; providing  
9 an effective date.

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

12  
13 Section 1. Law enforcement academy for diverse  
14 communities.-

15 (1) The Legislature finds that the establishment of  
16 enhanced law enforcement recruitment and training programs at  
17 historically black colleges and universities will help to  
18 alleviate the racial disparities that exist among those employed  
19 as law enforcement officers, to foster greater understanding and  
20 respect for racial and cultural differences, and to facilitate  
21 the development of effective, noncombative methods of carrying  
22 out law enforcement duties in a racially and culturally diverse  
23 environment.

24 (2) Contingent upon an appropriation, Florida Agricultural  
25 and Mechanical University and Florida Memorial University shall  
26 establish the Law Enforcement Academy for Diverse Communities.

27 The purpose of the academy is to enhance the ability of this  
28 state's law enforcement agencies to specifically recruit,  
29 educate, and employ members of racially and culturally diverse  
30 populations.

31 (3) In addition to diversity awareness components of basic  
32 recruit training programs approved by the Criminal Justice  
33 Standards and Training Commission, the curriculum of the academy  
34 must, at a minimum, provide for:

35 (a) Education and training on reforming policing  
36 techniques to eliminate corruption, police brutality, and racial  
37 profiling.

38 (b) An overview of historical, institutional, and societal  
39 barriers that have impacted women and ethnic and racial  
40 minorities who have pursued careers in law enforcement.

41 (c) Participation in youth mentoring projects that help to  
42 dismantle negative perceptions of law enforcement officers and  
43 support creation of stronger relationships between youth  
44 residing in racially and culturally diverse communities and law  
45 enforcement officers.

46 (4) The academy may:

47 (a) Establish data collection and analysis procedures to  
48 facilitate research on racial profiling and stereotyping. Data  
49 collected may be used to educate the public and law enforcement  
50 personnel and to develop policies designed to correct and apply  
51 discipline in instances of racial profiling in connection with  
52 law enforcement activities.

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53        (b) Expand the use of community partnerships and community  
54 policing programs designed to promote further understanding and  
55 respect for racial and cultural differences.

56        (c) Organize outreach programming and recruitment events  
57 specifically geared toward racially and culturally diverse  
58 populations.

59        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.