

By Senator Smith

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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:

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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

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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 techniques
36 to eliminate corruption, police brutality, and racial profiling.

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

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

45 (4) The academy may:

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

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

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

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