

By Senator Legg

17-01197-16

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to first responders; amending s.
3 110.2035, F.S.; requiring state agencies to establish
4 a first responder career development plan for certain
5 purposes; providing duties of the agencies relating to
6 the implementation of the plan; providing an effective
7 date.

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

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11 Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 110.2035,
12 Florida Statutes, to read:

13 110.2035 Classification and compensation program.—

14 (9) (a) In order to strengthen the ability of state agencies
15 to provide career development for law enforcement officers,
16 correctional officers, correctional probation officers, and
17 firefighters and retain well-qualified and experienced officers
18 and firefighters, all state agencies employing law enforcement
19 officers, correctional officers, correctional probation
20 officers, and firefighters shall establish a first responder
21 career development plan. The plan shall be voluntary for law
22 enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional
23 probation officers, and firefighters and shall provide salary
24 increases for officer and firefighter achievements that exceed
25 the minimum requirements for employment.

26 (b) Salary increases shall be awarded to an officer or a
27 firefighter in good standing who achieves and maintains
28 specified levels of achievement as determined by the agency.

29 (c)1. Each state agency shall provide levels of achievement
30 for law enforcement officers, correctional officers,
31 correctional probation officers, and firefighters and develop
32 standards, through collective bargaining, if applicable, that

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33 provide approved activities recognized for attaining the levels.
34 The achievement of each level must be documented by the
35 attainment of specific achievements and the completion of a
36 specified number of years of service.

37 2. Achievements may include the earning of postsecondary
38 education credits and the completion of leadership or advanced
39 training. Officers and firefighters may attain specified levels
40 by participating in approved activities that advance the
41 officer's or firefighter's professional interests as specified
42 in the officer's or firefighter's job description.

43 (d) The plan shall be made available to law enforcement
44 officers as defined in s. 943.10, correctional officers as
45 defined in s. 943.10, correctional probation officers as defined
46 in s. 943.10, and firefighters as defined in s. 633.102, in all
47 career service positions. The number of officers or firefighters
48 who may qualify for each level may not exceed the number of
49 officers or firefighters covered by the bargaining unit covering
50 such classes of employees in the agency.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.