

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senators Thurston and Garcia

591-01706-17

2017154c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to autism awareness training for law
3 enforcement officers; creating s. 943.1727, F.S.;
4 requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to
5 establish a continued employment training component
6 relating to autism spectrum disorder; specifying
7 instruction to be included in the training component;
8 providing that completion of the training may count
9 toward continued employment instruction requirements;
10 providing an 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. Section 943.1727, Florida Statutes, is created
15 to read:

16 943.1727 Continued employment training relating to autism
17 spectrum disorder.—The department shall establish a continued
18 employment training component relating to autism spectrum
19 disorder as defined in s. 627.6686. The training component shall
20 include, but need not be limited to, instruction on the
21 recognition of the symptoms and idiosyncrasies of an individual
22 on the autism disorder spectrum and appropriate responses to a
23 person exhibiting such symptoms and idiosyncrasies. Completion
24 of the training component may count toward the 40 hours of
25 instruction for continued employment or appointment as a law
26 enforcement officer required under s. 943.135.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2017.