

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Criminal Justice; and  
Senators Thurston and Garcia

576-03494-17

2017154c2

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 characteristics of an individual  
22 on the autism disorder spectrum and appropriate responses to a  
23 person exhibiting such symptoms and characteristics. 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.