

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to mental illness training for law
 3 enforcement officers; creating s. 943.17275, F.S.;
 4 defining the term "mental illness"; requiring the
 5 Department of Law Enforcement to establish a continued
 6 employment training component relating to mental
 7 illness; specifying instruction to be included in the
 8 training component; providing that completion of the
 9 training may count toward continued employment
 10 instruction requirements; 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 943.17275, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to read:

16 943.17275 Continued employment training relating to mental
 17 illness.-

18 (1) As used in this section, the term "mental illness"
 19 means an impairment of the emotional processes that exercise
 20 conscious control of one's actions, or of the ability to
 21 perceive or understand reality, which impairment substantially
 22 interferes with a person's ability to meet the ordinary demands
 23 of living. The term does not apply to persons who have only an
 24 intellectual disability or autism and does not include
 25 intoxication or conditions manifested only by substance abuse

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26 impairment.

27 (2) The department shall establish a continued employment
28 training component relating to mental illness. The training
29 component shall include, but need not be limited to, instruction
30 on the recognition of the symptoms and characteristics of an
31 individual with a mental illness and appropriate responses to an
32 individual exhibiting such symptoms and characteristics.
33 Completion of the training component may count toward the 40
34 hours of instruction for continued employment or appointment as
35 a law enforcement officer required under s. 943.135.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.