

By Senator Thurston

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to criminal justice standards and
3 training; amending s. 943.125, F.S.; revising
4 legislative intent; requiring that a voluntary
5 accreditation program be mandatory; requiring the
6 Department of Law Enforcement to establish a review
7 process to assist agencies that fail to obtain or
8 maintain accreditation; providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Subsections (1) through (5) of section 943.125,
13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 943.125 Accreditation of state and local law enforcement
15 agencies, correctional facilities, public agency offices of
16 inspectors general, and certain pretrial diversion programs;
17 intent.-

18 (1) It is the intent of the legislature that law
19 enforcement agencies, correctional facilities, public agency
20 offices of inspectors general, and those agencies offering
21 pretrial diversion programs within offices of the state
22 attorneys, county government, or sheriff's offices in the state
23 must be upgraded and strengthened through the adoption of
24 meaningful standards of operation for those agencies and their
25 functions.

26 (2) ~~It is the further intent of the Legislature that These~~
27 agencies shall ~~voluntarily~~ adopt standards designed to promote
28 enhanced professionalism:

29 (a) For law enforcement, to maximize the capability of law

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30 enforcement agencies to enforce the law and prevent and control
31 criminal activities.

32 (b) For correctional facilities, to maintain best practices
33 for the care, custody, and control of inmates.

34 (c) Within public agency offices of inspector general, to
35 promote more effective scrutiny of public agency operations and
36 greater accountability of those serving in those agencies.

37 (d) In the operation and management of pretrial diversion
38 programs offered by and through the state attorney's offices,
39 county government, or sheriff's offices.

40 (3) The ~~Legislature also intends to encourage the~~
41 ~~continuation of a voluntary~~ state accreditation program shall ~~to~~
42 facilitate the enhanced professionalism identified in subsection
43 (2). Other than the staff support by the department as
44 authorized in subsection (5), the accreditation program must be
45 independent of any law enforcement agency, the Department of
46 Corrections, the Florida Sheriffs Association, or the Florida
47 Police Chiefs Association.

48 (4) The law enforcement accreditation program must address,
49 at a minimum, the following aspects of law enforcement:

50 (a) Vehicle pursuits.

51 (b) Seizure and forfeiture of contraband articles.

52 (c) Recording and processing citizens' complaints.

53 (d) Use of force.

54 (e) Traffic stops.

55 (f) Handling natural and manmade disasters.

56 (g) Special operations.

57 (h) Prisoner transfer.

58 (i) Collection and preservation of evidence.

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- 59 (j) Recruitment and selection.
- 60 (k) Officer training.
- 61 (l) Performance evaluations.
- 62 (m) Law enforcement disciplinary procedures and rights.
- 63 (n) Use of criminal investigative funds.
- 64 (5) (a) Subject to available funding, the department shall
- 65 employ and assign adequate support staff to the Commission for
- 66 Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc., and the Florida
- 67 Corrections Accreditation Commission, Inc., in support of the
- 68 accreditation programs established in this section.
- 69 (b) The department shall establish a review process to
- 70 assist an agency that has failed to obtain or maintain
- 71 accreditation as required under this section. The process shall
- 72 require such an agency to submit an accreditation action plan
- 73 and any agency that fails to demonstrate progress in developing
- 74 or implementing any such accreditation action plan to enter into
- 75 a memorandum of understanding with the department.
- 76 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.