

By Senator Burgess

20-00600D-21

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to law enforcement officer training;  
3       creating s. 943.1719, F.S.; defining terms;  
4       authorizing the Criminal Justice Standards and  
5       Training Commission to incorporate instruction on use  
6       of force, deescalation techniques, and suicide  
7       awareness and prevention techniques into the course  
8       curriculum required for law enforcement officers  
9       obtaining initial certification; providing training  
10      authorizations; creating s. 943.17191, F.S.;  
11      authorizing the commission to adopt rules authorizing  
12      each officer to receive instruction on use of force,  
13      deescalation techniques, and suicide awareness and  
14      prevention techniques as part of required instruction  
15      for continued employment or appointment as an officer;  
16      providing an effective date.

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

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20       Section 1. Section 943.1719, Florida Statutes, is created  
21 to read:

22       943.1719 Basic skills training relating to use of force,  
23 deescalation techniques, and suicide awareness and prevention  
24 techniques.-

25       (1) As used in this section, the term:

26       (a) "Deescalation techniques" includes, but is not limited  
27 to:

28       1. The use of alternative, nonlethal methods of applying  
29 force and techniques that prevent the officer from escalating

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30 any situation where force is likely to be used;

31 2. The use of verbal and physical tactics to minimize the  
32 need for the use of force, with an emphasis on communication,  
33 negotiation, and deescalation tactics, and to provide the time  
34 needed to resolve the incident safely for everyone;

35 3. The use of the lowest level of force that is a possible  
36 and safe response to an identified threat and reevaluating the  
37 threat as it progresses;

38 4. The use of techniques that provide all officers with  
39 awareness and recognition of mental health and substance abuse  
40 issues with an emphasis on communication strategies, and  
41 training officers simultaneously in teams on deescalation and  
42 use of force to improve group dynamics and diminish excessive  
43 use of force during critical incidents;

44 5. Principles of using distance, cover, and time when  
45 approaching and managing critical incidents; and

46 6. Crisis intervention strategies to appropriately identify  
47 and respond to individuals suffering from mental health or  
48 substance abuse issues, with an emphasis on deescalation tactics  
49 and promoting effective communication.

50 (b) "Suicide awareness and prevention techniques" includes,  
51 but is not limited to, methods and tools for recognizing signs  
52 that an individual is in crisis and promoting awareness of, and  
53 training in recognizing, symptoms of post-traumatic stress  
54 disorder.

55 (2) The commission may incorporate instruction on use of  
56 force, deescalation techniques, and suicide awareness and  
57 prevention techniques into the course curriculum required for a  
58 law enforcement officer to obtain initial certification. Use of

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59 force training may include, but need not be limited to,  
60 instruction on legal use of force, including deadly force.

61 Section 2. Section 943.17191, Florida Statutes, is created  
62 to read:

63 943.17191 Continued employment training on use of force,  
64 deescalation techniques, and suicide awareness and prevention  
65 techniques.-The commission may by rule authorize that each  
66 officer receive, as part of the 40 hours of required instruction  
67 for continued employment or appointment as an officer,  
68 instruction on use of force, deescalation techniques, and  
69 suicide awareness and prevention techniques as those terms are  
70 described or defined in s. 943.1719.

71 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.