

By Senator Collins

14-01363-24

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to autism spectrum disorder training  
3       for law enforcement officers; amending s. 943.1727,  
4       F.S.; providing definitions; providing requirements  
5       for training officers for interacting with individuals  
6       with autism spectrum disorder; requiring the Criminal  
7       Justice Standards and Training Commission to adopt  
8       rules requiring such training as part of continued  
9       employment training for officers; providing an  
10      effective date.

11  
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 amended  
15 to read:

16       943.1727 ~~Continued~~ Employment training relating to autism  
17 spectrum disorder.—

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

19       (a) "Agency" means the ability to make independent  
20 decisions and act in one's own best interests.

21       (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" has the same meaning as in  
22 s. 627.6686(2).

23       (2) The commission ~~department~~ shall establish an a  
24 continued employment training component relating to individuals  
25 with autism spectrum disorder as ~~defined in s. 627.6686.~~ The  
26 ~~training component shall include, but need not be limited to,~~  
27 ~~instruction on the recognition of the symptoms and~~  
28 ~~characteristics of an individual on the autism disorder spectrum~~  
29 ~~and appropriate responses to an individual exhibiting such~~

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30 ~~symptoms and characteristics.~~ Completion of the training  
31 component may count toward the 40 hours of instruction for  
32 continued employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer  
33 required under s. 943.135.

34 (3) The employment training component for officers relating  
35 to interaction with individuals with autism spectrum disorder  
36 may include at least 4 hours of in-person instruction in the  
37 techniques and procedures described in this subsection:

38 (a) The nature and manifestation of autism spectrum  
39 disorders.

40 (b) Appropriate techniques for interviewing or  
41 interrogating an individual with autism spectrum disorder,  
42 including techniques to ensure the legality of statements made  
43 by the individual and techniques used to protect the rights of  
44 the individual.

45 (c) Techniques for locating an individual with autism  
46 spectrum disorder who runs away and is in danger and for  
47 returning that individual while causing as little stress as  
48 possible to the individual.

49 (d) Techniques for recognizing the agency of an individual  
50 with autism spectrum disorder while identifying potential  
51 abusive or coercive situations.

52 (e) Techniques for deescalating a potentially dangerous  
53 situation to maximize the safety of both the officer and the  
54 individual with autism spectrum disorder.

55 (f) Techniques for differentiating an individual with  
56 autism spectrum disorder from an individual who is belligerent,  
57 uncooperative, or otherwise displaying traits similar to the  
58 characteristics of an individual with autism spectrum disorder

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59 and understanding the law as it relates to the use of the Baker  
60 Act against an individual with autism spectrum disorder.

61 (g) Procedures to identify and address challenges related  
62 to the safety and wellbeing of individuals with autism spectrum  
63 disorder in a correctional facility.

64 (h) The impact of interaction with officers on individuals  
65 with autism spectrum disorder.

66 (4) All recruits must receive the employment training  
67 component relating to individuals with autism spectrum disorder.  
68 Such training component may be taught as part of other relevant  
69 components of the training.

70 (5) The commission shall by rule require that each officer  
71 receive, as part of the required instruction for continued  
72 employment or appointment as an officer, instruction in the  
73 techniques and procedures described in subsection (3).

74 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.