

26 decisions and act in one's own best interests.

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

29 (2) The ~~commission~~ department shall establish an a
30 continued employment training component relating to individuals
31 with autism spectrum disorder as ~~defined in s. 627.6686~~. The
32 training component shall include, but need not be limited to,
33 instruction on the recognition of the symptoms and
34 characteristics of an individual on the autism disorder spectrum
35 and appropriate responses to an individual exhibiting such
36 symptoms and characteristics. Completion of the training
37 component must ~~may~~ count toward the 40 hours of instruction for
38 continued employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer
39 required under s. 943.135.

40 (3) The employment training component for law enforcement
41 officers relating to interaction with individuals with autism
42 spectrum disorder must include in-person instruction for initial
43 certification and online or in-person instruction for continued
44 employment training or education required under s. 943.135(1) in
45 all of the following:

46 (a) The nature and manifestation of autism spectrum
47 disorder.

48 (b) Techniques for interviewing or interrogating an
49 individual with autism spectrum disorder, including techniques
50 to ensure the legality of statements made by the individual and

51 techniques used to protect the rights of the individual.

52 (c) Techniques for locating an individual with autism
53 spectrum disorder who has run away and is in danger and for
54 returning that individual while causing as little stress as
55 possible to the individual.

56 (d) Techniques for recognizing the agency of an individual
57 with autism spectrum disorder while identifying potential
58 abusive or coercive situations.

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

62 (f) Techniques for differentiating an individual with
63 autism spectrum disorder from an individual who is belligerent,
64 uncooperative, or otherwise displaying traits similar to the
65 characteristics of an individual with autism spectrum disorder
66 and for understanding the law as it relates to the use of the
67 Baker Act on an individual with autism spectrum disorder.

68 (g) The impact of an interaction with officers on
69 individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

70 (4) All recruits must receive the employment training
71 component relating to individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
72 Such training component may be taught as part of other relevant
73 components of the training.

74 (5) The commission shall by rule require that each law
75 enforcement officer receive instruction in the techniques and

76 procedures described in subsection (3) as part of basic recruit
77 training and as part of the required instruction for continued
78 employment or appointment as such an officer.

79 (a) By July 1, 2027, each basic skills course required for
80 law enforcement officers to obtain initial certification, as
81 required under s. 943.13(9), must incorporate such training.

82 (b) By July 1, 2028, each law enforcement officer must
83 successfully complete such training, as required under s.
84 943.131(4)(a), and as part of continued training or education
85 required under s. 943.135(1). If an officer fails to complete
86 the training required under this subsection, his or her
87 certification must be placed on inactive status until the
88 officer's employing agency notifies the commission that he or
89 she has completed the training.

90 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.