

CS/HB 951 — Public Safety

by Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee and Rep. Snyder and others (CS/CS/SB 1974 by Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Senator Negron)

The bill revises the process for removing mental health records from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE's) mental competency database for purposes of firearms purchases. These revisions align the statutes with federal law requirements.

The bill requires FDLE to retain fingerprints submitted as part of the job application process upon official written request and subject to the department having sufficient funding to do so. The bill also requires FDLE to store the additional fingerprints that it retains in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)/Applicant Fingerprint Retention and Notification Program (AFRNP) and to search all incoming Florida arrest fingerprint cards against the fingerprints retained in AFIS/AFRNP.

The bill requires the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission to adopt rules requiring all law enforcement officers to demonstrate proficiency in firearms and to specify in the rules how often officers must demonstrate firearm proficiency and what the consequences will be if an officer fails to demonstrate firearm proficiency.

This bill also updates the Basic Recruit Training Program exemption statutes to require employing agencies and criminal justice selection centers to verify that a person has completed the appropriate basic recruit training program and has served as an officer for the required amount of time without breaks in service. It provides for removing correctional probation officers from the list of persons who must pass a basic skills exam in order to be admitted to a basic recruit training program.

The bill deletes the Monroe County crime lab from the listed participating labs in the state crime lab system as that lab has closed.

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 790.065, 943.05, 943.12, 943.131, 943.1395, 943.17, and 943.32.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 32-0; House 114-0