

2
3 SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HJR267
4
5
6
7

8 HJR _____ ENCOURAGING THE ALABAMA PEACE OFFICERS STANDARDS AND
9 TRAINING COMMISSION TO OFFER MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING.
10

11 WHEREAS, there exists a mental health crisis in
12 America and more specifically in Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are called upon to
14 respond to or encounter situations involving persons
15 displaying behaviors consistent with mental illness or crisis;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, effective ways to mitigate an encounter
18 between law enforcement and a person living with a mental
19 illness include recognition of the signs and symptoms of
20 mental illness, safe de-escalation and timely referral to
21 mental health services; and

22 WHEREAS, mental health awareness training provides
23 law enforcement officers with initial effective response
24 options; and

25 WHEREAS, the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and
26 Training Commission (APOSTC) provides mandatory training of
27 all certified law enforcement officers in Alabama; and

1 WHEREAS, APOSTC develops and implements the training
2 curriculum for all law enforcement officers in the basic
3 training academy; and

4 WHEREAS, the APOSTC leadership recognizes the value
5 of additional mental health awareness training at the academy
6 and has recognized the effectiveness of Crisis Intervention
7 Team (CIT) training programs for advanced training; and

8 WHEREAS, APOSTC has expressed a willingness to
9 include mental health awareness training as a component of the
10 training curriculum for all newly certified law enforcement
11 officers as soon as is practical, and promote additional
12 training for law enforcement officers in the field to include
13 mental health awareness training and CIT programs to ensure
14 the safety of all persons; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That APOSTC is congratulated on its
17 willingness to recognize the importance and value of mental
18 health awareness training and community-based CIT programs.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That mental health awareness
20 training shall commence at the academy at the earliest
21 possible date as a component of the APOSTC basic academy
22 training.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Alabama law
24 enforcement agencies are encouraged to utilize mental health
25 awareness training for certified law enforcement officers in
26 Alabama as a part of in-service training or annual continuing
27 education.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Alabama law
2 enforcement agencies are encouraged to work with their state
3 and local mental health providers to develop and implement the
4 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training concept within their
5 jurisdictions to help de-escalate and resolve mental health
6 crisis conflicts; and that, APOSTC encourages CIT training and
7 refresher training as a matter of continuing education for
8 all law enforcement officers.