

1 HJR267
2 186925-3
3 By Representative Ball
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 11-APR-17

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

ENCOURAGING THE ALABAMA PEACE OFFICERS STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION TO OFFER MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 13-APR-17.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate	<hr/> 19-MAY-17 <hr/>	Amended and Passed
House	<hr/> 19-MAY-17 <hr/>	Concurred in Senate Amendment