

1 HB16  
2 205238-2  
3 By Representatives Reynolds, Whitt, Robertson and Stringer  
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21  
6 PFD: 10/29/2020

8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a law enforcement  
9 officer must successfully complete the law  
10 enforcement training course at an academy approved  
11 by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and  
12 Training Commission before he or she can be a  
13 certified officer.

14 This bill would require the Alabama Peace  
15 Officers' Standards and Training Commission to  
16 provide mandatory mental health awareness training,  
17 which emphasizes crisis intervention concepts, for  
18 trainees in commission-approved academies.

19 This bill would also require a certified law  
20 enforcement officer to complete a continuing  
21 education course relating to mental health  
22 awareness.

23  
24 A BILL  
25 TO BE ENTITLED  
26 AN ACT  
27

1                   Relating to law enforcement officers; to require the  
2 Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission to  
3 provide a mandatory Mental Health Awareness/Crisis  
4 Intervention Training program for existing law enforcement  
5 officers and certain trainees under certain conditions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

7                   Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this act, a law  
8 enforcement officer is a state, county or municipal law  
9 enforcement officer certified by the Alabama Peace Officers'  
10 Standards and Training Commission.

11                   (b) By January 1, 2022, the Alabama Peace Officers'  
12 Standards and Training Commission shall provide not less than  
13 16 hours of instruction relating to Mental Health Awareness,  
14 which incorporates the concepts of crisis intervention, as  
15 part of the curriculum of training required under Section  
16 36-21-46, Code of Alabama 1975, to all law enforcement  
17 trainees within the commission's jurisdiction.

18                   (c) A law enforcement officer certified by the  
19 commission prior to January 1, 2022, shall complete the Mental  
20 Health Awareness program required under subsection (a) by  
21 January 1, 2025.

22                   (d) The commission shall annually review and update  
23 the training to include changes and trends in mental health  
24 awareness for first responders.

25                   (e) The commission may adopt rules for the  
26 implementation and administration of this act.

1                   Section 2. This act shall become effective  
2 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
3 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.