

1 SB14
2 205238-2
3 By Senator Jones
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21
6 PFD: 12/08/2020

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

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

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

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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.