

HJR241 ENROLLED



1 HJR241
2 3A9YZVE-2
3 By Representatives Bedsole, Reynolds, Treadaway, Stringer,
4 Wood (R), Standridge, Carns, Bolton, Mooney, Hendrix
5 RFD: RULES
6 First Read: 30-Apr-24



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE APPROACH AND BEST PRACTICES
4 OF THE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAMS AND ENCOURAGING THE
5 DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVE PROGRAMS STATEWIDE.

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7 WHEREAS, mental illness and intellectual disability
8 disorder (IDD) are medical conditions that affect children,
9 adolescents, adults, and the elderly; and

10 WHEREAS, medical conditions warrant non-law
11 enforcement responses unless an identified level of danger
12 or criminal concern requires a law enforcement response; and

13 WHEREAS, behavioral health crises should be resolved
14 using the least intrusive method appropriate for the given
15 situation; and

16 WHEREAS, when a law enforcement response is
17 warranted, law enforcement services in Alabama are prepared
18 to respond appropriately; and

19 WHEREAS, in response to the need for Alabama's law
20 enforcement officers to better understand and deal with
21 issues arising from individuals with mental illness or IDD,
22 the Alabama Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program was
23 developed through the State CIT Steering Committee; and

24 WHEREAS, CIT training, a 40-hour curriculum to be
25 completed in a one-week period and based on the Bureau of
26 Justice Assistance's (BJA) "Crisis Response and Intervention
27 Training (CRIT)," provides best practices for law



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28 enforcement intervention with individuals who have a mental
29 illness or IDD; and

30 WHEREAS, Alabama CIT training meets the certification
31 requirements set forth by the State CIT Steering Committee;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the Alabama CIT program is recognized by the
34 Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) as one of the
35 finest law enforcement training programs in the nation; and

36 WHEREAS, implementing the CIT program on a statewide
37 basis means building strong working partnerships between law
38 enforcement agencies and mental health resources in the
39 community; and

40 WHEREAS, these partnerships bring law enforcement and
41 mental health services together instead of working
42 independently on mental health issues; and

43 WHEREAS, by working together, the law enforcement and
44 mental health communities can find appropriate and long-term
45 solutions for individuals with mental illness or IDD; and

46 WHEREAS, the CIT program trains specialized law
47 enforcement officers to effectively and humanely intervene
48 in situations involving children and adults who find
49 themselves in psychiatric crisis; and

50 WHEREAS, the CIT program is proven to reduce the
51 likelihood of physical confrontation and use of force in
52 these intervention situations; and

53 WHEREAS, the CIT program improves officer safety and
54 decreases injuries to law enforcement officers involved in
55 crisis intervention; and



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56 WHEREAS, the CIT program helps link individuals with
57 mental illness or IDD to appropriate treatment and community
58 services; and

59 WHEREAS, the CIT program decreases the use of arrest
60 and detention of individuals experiencing a crisis by
61 providing those individuals with better access to timely
62 treatment; and

63 WHEREAS, the CIT program reduces the amount of time
64 officers would otherwise spend being out of service while
65 awaiting assessment and disposition of the intervention,
66 thereby resulting in cost savings; and

67 WHEREAS, according to national studies, volunteer
68 officers with CIT training were less likely to use force
69 when dealing with mentally ill or IDD individuals, and
70 CIT-trained officers believed that nonphysical responses
71 were more effective and physical responses less effective in
72 dealing with a mental illness or IDD than non-CIT-trained
73 officers; and

74 WHEREAS, CIT-trained officers understand how symptoms
75 of mental illness and IDD may be manifested and affect
76 behavior, and they are aware of the perspective of the
77 individual, and his or her family, living with mental
78 illness or IDD; now therefore,

79 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
80 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the outstanding leadership
81 of NAMI Alabama CIT Division and the State CIT Steering
82 Committee and its work in the area of crisis intervention



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83 with individuals who have a mental illness or IDD is highly
84 commended and recognized.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama Legislature
86 recognizes the Alabama CIT Program as the model of best
87 practice for crisis response system reform including law
88 enforcement intervention with individuals who have a mental
89 illness or IDD; law enforcement agencies and community
90 mental health centers are encouraged to work together and,
91 in conjunction with other community partners, to have active
92 CIT programs in place statewide.

93 BE IT FURTHUR RESOLVED, That a copy of this
94 resolution be sent to the Alabama Police Chief Association,
95 the Alabama Sheriff's Association, ALEA, APOSTC, and ADMH.



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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 passed by the House 02-May-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

07-May-24

Adopted