

HJR241 INTRODUCED



1 HJR241
2 3A9YZVE-1
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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HJR_____ RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE APPROACH AND BEST PRACTICES OF THE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAMS AND ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVE PROGRAMS STATEWIDE.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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