

1 HB326
2 205238-1
3 By Representatives Reynolds, Kiel, Moore (P), Farley,
4 Robertson, Shedd, Ledbetter, Allen, Simpson, Meadows, Stringer
5 and Shiver
6 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
7 First Read: 25-FEB-20

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) By January 1, 2021, the Alabama Peace
8 Officers' Standards and Training Commission shall provide not
9 less than 16 hours of instruction relating to Mental Health
10 Awareness, which incorporates the concepts of crisis
11 intervention, as part of the curriculum of training required
12 under Section 36-21-46, Code of Alabama 1975, to all law
13 enforcement trainees within the commission's jurisdiction.

14 (b) A law enforcement officer certified by the
15 commission prior to January 1, 2021, shall complete the Mental
16 Health Awareness program required under subsection (a) by
17 January 1, 2024.

18 (c) The commission shall annually review and update
19 the training to include changes and trends in mental health
20 awareness for first responders.

21 (d) The commission may adopt rules for the
22 implementation and administration of this act.

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