

SB80 INTRODUCED



1 SB80
2 EIXN922-1
3 By Senators Smitherman, Singleton
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs
5 First Read: 07-Feb-24

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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 This bill would require law enforcement officers
6 in this state to complete a program of sensitivity
7 training. This bill would also require law enforcement
8 agencies to engage in efforts to recruit social workers
9 licensed at the clinical level of practice to be law
10 enforcement officers. This bill would require law
11 enforcement officers who carry firearms to also carry a
12 non-lethal weapon.

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15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT
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19 Relating to law enforcement; to require law enforcement
20 officers in this state to complete a program of sensitivity
21 training; to require law enforcement agencies to engage in
22 efforts to recruit social workers licensed at the clinical
23 level of practice to be law enforcement officers; and to
24 require law enforcement officers who carry firearms to also
25 carry a non-lethal weapon.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

27 Section 1. (a) The Alabama Peace Officers' Standards
28 and Training Commission shall require a program of sensitivity



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training to be included in any law enforcement officer academy course of study. The sensitivity training program shall be developed in collaboration with the Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers or a similar organization.

(b) Certified law enforcement officers in this state shall be required to complete and report earned hours of continuing education courses in sensitivity training to the commission.

(c) Commencing January 1, 2025, all law enforcement officers certified by the commission shall be required to complete a program of sensitivity training described in subsection (a). The training shall do all of the following:

(1) Include focus on social, ethnic, and racial bias, cultural competency and diversity, and law enforcement interaction with minorities, the disabled, the mentally ill, unlawfully present aliens, and other populations.

(2) Provide instruction on situational assessment, decision-making, and alternative de-escalation tactics that will better equip law enforcement officer to handle difficult socially volatile situations.

(d) The commission shall establish rules and policies to ensure compliance with this section.

(e) The commission shall submit a report regarding compliance to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate on or before the first day of each regular session of the Legislature.

Section 2. Commencing on January 1, 2025, state and



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local law enforcement agencies shall engage in efforts to recruit social workers licensed at the clinical level of practice into the law enforcement officer workforce. The social workers shall complete all necessary standards and training to become sworn officers of the law. Licensed social workers that become law enforcement officers shall assist law enforcement agencies and first responding agencies in all of the following areas to aid in the mitigation of high intensity situations:

- (1) Human behavior in social environments.
- (2) Crisis intervention.
- (3) Diversity.
- (4) Ethics.
- (5) Diagnostic impression, assessment, and opinion expertise.

Section 3. A uniformed law enforcement officer who carries a firearm also shall carry a non-lethal weapon and shall be trained in the appropriate use of that non-lethal weapon.

Section 4. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.