

Committee on Criminal Justice

CS/CS/HB 39 — Autism Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers

by Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; and Reps. Jenne, Stafford, and others (CS/CS/SB 154 by Appropriations Committee; Criminal Justice Committee; and Senators Thurston and Garcia)

The bill requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to establish continued employment training relating to autism spectrum disorder. Instruction must include, but is not limited to, instruction on the recognition of the symptoms and characteristics of an individual on the autism disorder spectrum and appropriate responses to a person exhibiting such symptoms and idiosyncrasies. Completion of the training may count toward the 40 hours of required instruction for continued employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2017.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 115-0