

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to law enforcement and correctional
 3 officers; amending s. 943.13, F.S.; requiring certain
 4 applicants for employment to complete a recertification
 5 course; amending s. 943.131, F.S.; conforming provisions;
 6 reenacting s. 943.1395(3), F.S., relating to certification
 7 of such officers, to incorporate the amendments made to s.
 8 943.13, F.S., in references thereto; providing an
 9 effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 943.13, Florida
 14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 943.13 Officers' minimum qualifications for employment or
 16 appointment.--On or after October 1, 1984, any person employed
 17 or appointed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary law
 18 enforcement officer or correctional officer; on or after October
 19 1, 1986, any person employed as a full-time, part-time, or
 20 auxiliary correctional probation officer; and on or after
 21 October 1, 1986, any person employed as a full-time, part-time,
 22 or auxiliary correctional officer by a private entity under
 23 contract to the Department of Corrections, to a county
 24 commission, or to the Department of Management Services shall:

25 (9) Complete a commission-approved basic recruit training
 26 program for the applicable criminal justice discipline, unless
 27 exempt under this subsection.

28 (a) An applicant who has:

HB 857

2007

29 ~~1.(a)~~ Completed a comparable basic recruit training
30 program for the applicable criminal justice discipline in
31 another state or for the Federal Government; and

32 ~~2.(b)~~ Served as a full-time sworn officer in another state
33 or for the Federal Government for at least 1 year provided there
34 is no more than an 8-year break in employment, as measured from
35 the separation date of the most recent qualifying employment to
36 the time a complete application is submitted for an exemption
37 under this section,

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39 is exempt in accordance with s. 943.131(2) from completing the
40 commission-approved basic recruit training program.

41 (b) However, an applicant who has a break in employment of
42 more than 8 years and who otherwise meets the requirements of
43 this section must complete a 120-hour recertification course
44 that emphasizes firearms training and a review of the applicable
45 laws of this state. Such course may be conducted by the hiring
46 agency.

47 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 943.131, Florida
48 Statutes, is amended to read:

49 943.131 Temporary employment or appointment; minimum basic
50 recruit training exemption.--

51 (2)(a) If an applicant seeks an exemption from completing
52 a commission-approved basic recruit training program, the
53 employing agency must verify that the applicant has successfully
54 completed a comparable basic recruit training program for the
55 discipline in which the applicant is seeking certification in
56 another state or for the Federal Government. Further, the

HB 857

2007

57 | employing agency must verify that the applicant has served as a
58 | full-time sworn officer in another state or for the Federal
59 | Government for at least 1 year provided there is no more than an
60 | 8-year break in employment, as measured from the separation date
61 | of the most recent qualifying employment to the time a complete
62 | application is submitted for an exemption under this section. If
63 | there has been more than an 8-year break in employment, the
64 | applicant must comply with the requirements of s. 943.13(9)(b).

65 | (b) When the employing agency obtains written
66 | documentation regarding the applicant's criminal justice
67 | experience, the documentation must be submitted to the
68 | commission. The commission shall adopt rules that establish
69 | criteria and procedures to determine if the applicant is exempt
70 | from completing the commission-approved basic recruit training
71 | program and, upon making a determination, shall notify the
72 | employing agency. An applicant who is exempt from completing the
73 | commission-approved basic recruit training program must
74 | demonstrate proficiency in the high-liability areas, as defined
75 | by commission rule, and must complete the requirements of s.
76 | 943.13(10) within 1 year after receiving an exemption. If the
77 | proficiencies and requirements of s. 943.13(10) are not met
78 | within the 1 year, the applicant must complete a commission-
79 | approved basic recruit training program, as required by the
80 | commission by rule. Except as provided in subsection (1), before
81 | the employing agency may employ or appoint the applicant as an
82 | officer, the applicant must meet the minimum qualifications
83 | described in s. 943.13(1)-(8), and must fulfill the requirements
84 | of s. 943.13(10).

HB 857

2007

85 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments
86 made by this act to section 943.13, Florida Statutes, in
87 references thereto, subsection (3) of section 943.1395, Florida
88 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

89 943.1395 Certification for employment or appointment;
90 concurrent certification; reemployment or reappointment;
91 inactive status; revocation; suspension; investigation.--

92 (3) Any certified officer who has separated from
93 employment or appointment and who is not reemployed or
94 reappointed by an employing agency within 4 years after the date
95 of separation must meet the minimum qualifications described in
96 s. 943.13, except for the requirement found in s. 943.13(9).
97 Further, such officer must complete any training required by the
98 commission by rule. Any such officer who is not reemployed or
99 reappointed by an employing agency within 8 years after the date
100 of separation must meet the minimum qualifications described in
101 s. 943.13, to include the requirement of s. 943.13(9).

102 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.