

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Powell

591-02628-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to mental illness training for law
3 enforcement officers; creating s. 943.17161, F.S.;
4 requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to
5 establish a continued employment training component
6 relating to mental illness; defining the term "mental
7 illness"; requiring that the training component
8 include instruction on the recognition of the symptoms
9 or characteristics of and appropriate responses to
10 individuals exhibiting certain symptoms or
11 characteristics; authorizing completion of the
12 training to count toward continued employment or
13 appointment instruction requirements; providing an
14 effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Section 943.17161, Florida Statutes, is created
19 to read:

20 943.17161 Continued employment training relating to mental
21 illness.—The department shall establish a continued employment
22 training component relating to mental illness. For purposes of
23 this section, the term "mental illness" means an impairment of
24 the mental or emotional processes that exercise conscious
25 control of one's actions or of the ability to perceive or
26 understand reality, which impairment substantially interferes
27 with the person's ability to meet the ordinary demands of
28 living. The training component must include, but need not be
29 limited to, instruction on the recognition of the symptoms or

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30 characteristics of an individual with a mental illness and
31 appropriate responses to an individual exhibiting such symptoms
32 or characteristics. Completion of the training component may
33 count toward the 40 hours of instruction for continued
34 employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer required
35 under s. 943.135.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.