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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to autism spectrum disorder training 3 for law enforcement officers; amending s. 943.1727, 4 F.S.; providing definitions; providing requirements 5 for training officers regarding individuals with 6 autism spectrum disorder; requiring the Criminal 7 Justice Standards and Training Commission to adopt 8 rules requiring such training as part of continued 9 employment training for officers; providing an effective date. 10 11 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 13 Section 1. Section 943.1727, Florida Statutes, is amended 14 15 to read: 16 943.1727 Continued Employment training relating to autism 17 spectrum disorder.-As used in this section, the term: 18 (1)19 "Agency" means the ability to make independent (a) decisions and act in one's own best interests. 20 21 (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" has the same meaning as provided in s. 627.6686(2). 22 23 The commission department shall establish an a (2) 24 continued employment training component relating to individuals with autism spectrum disorder as defined in s. 627.6686. The 25

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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training component shall include, but need not be limited to, instruction on the recognition of the symptoms and characteristics of an individual on the autism disorder spectrum and appropriate responses to an individual exhibiting such symptoms and characteristics. Completion of the training component may count toward the 40 hours of instruction for continued employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer required under s. 943.135.

- (3) The employment training component relating to individuals with autism spectrum disorder for officers may include at least 4 hours of in person instruction in the procedures and techniques described in this subsection:
- (a) The nature and manifestation of autism spectrum disorders.
- (b) Appropriate techniques for interviewing or interrogating an individual with autism spectrum disorder, including techniques to ensure the legality of statements made and techniques used to protect the rights of the individual.
- (c) Techniques for locating an individual with autism spectrum disorder who runs away and is in danger and returning the individual while causing as little stress as possible to the individual.
- (d) Techniques for recognizing the agency of an individual with autism spectrum disorder while identifying potential abusive or coercive situations.

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(e) Techniques for deescalating a potentially dangerous situation to maximize the safety of both the officer and the individual with autism spectrum disorder.

- (f) Techniques for differentiating an individual with autism spectrum disorder from an individual who is belligerent, uncooperative, or otherwise displaying traits similar to the characteristics of an individual with autism spectrum disorder and understanding the law as it relates to the use of the Baker Act against an individual with autism spectrum disorder.
- (g) Procedures to identify and address challenges related to the safety and wellbeing of individuals with autism spectrum disorder in a correctional facility.
- (h) The impact of interaction with officers on individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
- (4) All recruits must receive the employment training component relating to individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

 Such training component may be taught as part of other relevant components of the training.
- (5) The commission shall by rule require that each officer receive, as part of the required instruction for continued employment or appointment as an officer, instruction in the procedures and techniques described in subsection (3).
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.