

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Valdés offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**Section 1. Section 320.021, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

320.021 Blue envelope and blue card program.—

(1) The department shall establish a blue envelope and blue card program for the purpose of improving communication between individuals with autism spectrum disorder and law enforcement officers.

(2) (a) By January 1, 2027, the department shall develop and make available to individuals with autism spectrum disorder

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14 a blue envelope that is intended to hold a copy of an  
15 individual's driver license and his or her vehicle registration,  
16 proof of insurance, and emergency contact information, and a  
17 blue card, which envelope or card may be provided by an  
18 individual with autism spectrum disorder to a law enforcement  
19 officer during an interaction with the law enforcement officer.

20 (b) The exterior of the blue envelope must identify the  
21 individual as an individual with autism spectrum disorder and  
22 include communication guidelines intended to assist law  
23 enforcement officers during interactions with drivers with  
24 autism spectrum disorder.

25 (c) The blue card may be digital or a durable, wallet-  
26 sized card and must identify the individual as an individual  
27 with autism spectrum disorder and include communication  
28 guidelines intended to assist law enforcement officers during  
29 interactions with individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

30 (3) Beginning January 1, 2027, an individual with autism  
31 spectrum disorder may request a blue envelope, blue card, or  
32 both a blue envelope and blue card from the department or a tax  
33 collector's office.

34 **Section 2. Section 943.1727, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
35 **to read:**

36 943.1727 ~~Continued~~ Employment training relating to autism  
37 spectrum disorder.—

38 (1) As used in this section, the term:

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39           (a) "Agency" means the ability to make independent  
40 decisions and act in one's own best interests.

41           (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" has the same meaning as in  
42 s. 627.6686(2).

43           (2) The ~~commission~~ department shall establish ~~an a~~  
44 ~~continued~~ employment training component relating to individuals  
45 ~~with~~ autism spectrum disorder ~~as defined in s. 627.6686.~~ The  
46 ~~training component shall include, but need not be limited to,~~  
47 ~~instruction on the recognition of the symptoms and~~  
48 ~~characteristics of an individual on the autism disorder spectrum~~  
49 ~~and appropriate responses to an individual exhibiting such~~  
50 ~~symptoms and characteristics.~~ Completion of the training  
51 component counts ~~may count~~ toward the 40 hours of instruction  
52 for continued employment or appointment as a law enforcement  
53 officer required under s. 943.135.

54           (3) The employment training component for law enforcement  
55 officers which relates to interaction with individuals with  
56 autism spectrum disorder must include in-person instruction for  
57 initial certification and online instruction for continued  
58 employment training or education required under s. 943.135(1) in  
59 all of the following:

60           (a) The nature and manifestation of autism spectrum  
61 disorder.

62           (b) Techniques for interviewing or interrogating an  
63 individual with autism spectrum disorder, including techniques

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64 to ensure the legality of statements made by the individual and  
65 techniques used to protect the rights of the individual.

66 (c) Techniques for locating an individual with autism  
67 spectrum disorder who has run away and is in danger and for  
68 returning that individual while causing as little stress as  
69 possible to the individual.

70 (d) Techniques for recognizing the agency of an individual  
71 with autism spectrum disorder while identifying potential  
72 abusive or coercive situations.

73 (e) Techniques for de-escalating a potentially dangerous  
74 situation to maximize the safety of both the officer and the  
75 individual with autism spectrum disorder.

76 (f) Techniques for differentiating an individual with  
77 autism spectrum disorder from an individual who is belligerent,  
78 uncooperative, or otherwise displaying traits similar to the  
79 characteristics of an individual with autism spectrum disorder  
80 and for understanding the law as it relates to the use of the  
81 Baker Act on an individual with autism spectrum disorder.

82 (g) The impact of an interaction with officers on  
83 individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

84 (h) Information about the blue envelope and blue card  
85 program established under s. 320.021 and the "SAFE" designation  
86 included in the motor vehicle record pursuant to s. 320.02(15).

87 (4) (a) By July 1, 2028, each basic skills course required  
88 for law enforcement officers to obtain initial certification, as

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89 required under s. 943.13(9), must incorporate such training  
90 component. Such training component may be taught as part of  
91 other relevant components of the training.

92 (b) Each certified law enforcement officer must  
93 successfully complete such training component as part of the  
94 basic recruit training required under s. 943.13(9) or as part of  
95 continued training or education required under s. 943.135(1) by  
96 July 1, 2030.

97 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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100 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

101 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

102 A bill to be entitled

103 An act relating to law enforcement officer  
104 interactions with individuals with autism spectrum  
105 disorder; creating s. 320.021, F.S.; requiring the  
106 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to  
107 establish a program to improve communication between  
108 individuals with autism spectrum disorder and law  
109 enforcement officers under certain circumstances;  
110 requiring the department to develop and make available  
111 to individuals with autism spectrum disorder a certain  
112 envelope and card by a specified date; providing  
113 requirements for the envelope and card; authorizing

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114 individuals with autism spectrum disorder to request  
115 the envelope and card from the department or a tax  
116 collector's office beginning on a specified date;  
117 amending s. 943.1727, F.S.; defining the terms  
118 "agency" and "autism spectrum disorder"; requiring the  
119 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission  
120 within the Department of Law Enforcement to establish  
121 an employment training component relating to  
122 individuals with autism spectrum disorder; providing  
123 requirements for training law enforcement officers on  
124 interacting with individuals with autism spectrum  
125 disorder; requiring the training component to be  
126 included in a specified course by a specified date;  
127 requiring specified law enforcement officers to  
128 complete the training component by a specified date;  
129 providing an effective date.

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