

1 SB335
2 191479-1
3 By Senator Smitherman
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 22-FEB-18

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would require law enforcement
9 officers in this state to complete sensitivity
10 training. The bill would also require law
11 enforcement agencies to recruit social workers
12 licensed at the clinical level of practice to be
13 law enforcement officers.

14
15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT

18
19 Relating to law enforcement; to require law
20 enforcement officers in this state to complete sensitivity
21 training and to require law enforcement agencies to recruit
22 social workers licensed at the clinical level of practice to
23 be law enforcement officers.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

25 Section 1. (a) The Alabama Peace Officers' Standards
26 and Training Commission shall require sensitivity training as
27 part of any law enforcement officer academy course of study.

1 The training shall be developed in collaboration with the
2 Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
3 or a similar organization.

4 (b) This bill requires certified law enforcement
5 officers in this state to complete and report hours of
6 continuing education courses in sensitivity training to the
7 commission.

8 (c) Commencing January 1, 2019, all law enforcement
9 officers certified by the commission shall be required to
10 complete instruction in sensitivity training described in
11 subsection (a). The training shall do all of the following:

12 (1) Include focus on social, ethnic, and racial
13 bias, cultural competency and diversity, and law enforcement
14 interaction with minorities, the disabled, the mentally ill,
15 unlawfully present aliens, and other populations.

16 (2) Provide instruction on situational assessment,
17 decision making, and alternative de-escalation tactics that
18 will better equip law enforcement officers to handle difficult
19 socially volatile situations.

20 (d) The commission shall establish rules and
21 policies to ensure compliance with this section.

22 (e) The commission shall submit a report regarding
23 compliance to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and
24 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate on or before the first
25 day of each regular session of the Legislature.

26 Section 2. Commencing on January 1, 2019, state and
27 local law enforcement agencies shall recruit social workers

1 licensed at the clinical level of practice into the law
2 enforcement officer workforce. The social workers shall
3 complete all necessary standards and training to become sworn
4 officers of the law. Licensed social workers that become law
5 enforcement officers shall assist law enforcement agencies and
6 first responding agencies in all of the following areas to aid
7 in the mitigation of high intensity situations:

8 (1) Human behavior in social environments.

9 (2) Crisis intervention.

10 (3) Diversity.

11 (4) Ethics.

12 (5) Diagnostic impression, assessment, and opinion
13 expertise.

14 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
15 first day of the third month following its passage and
16 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.