

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to law enforcement officers; amending  
 3           s. 943.03, F.S.; providing legislative findings;  
 4           requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to create  
 5           a program to appoint and supervise unpaid auxiliary  
 6           law enforcement officers with statewide jurisdiction  
 7           to support law enforcement agencies; specifying the  
 8           status of such officers; providing that certain  
 9           training courses may be taught from any location in a  
 10          virtual classroom without an instructor present;  
 11          providing an effective date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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15           Section 1. Subsections (17) and (18) are added to section  
 16   943.03, Florida Statutes, to read:

17           943.03 Department of Law Enforcement.—

18           (17) (a) The Legislature finds that there is a need to  
 19           develop and implement a comprehensive statewide strategy to  
 20           coordinate law enforcement efforts in combating the recent surge  
 21           in hate crimes based on religious and ethnic heritage. The  
 22           Legislature further finds that the state will benefit from the  
 23           further engagement of community members as unpaid auxiliary law  
 24           enforcement officers who can support multiple jurisdictions to  
 25           enhance, among other things, the exchange and collection of

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26 | intelligence information, thereby benefitting statewide law  
27 | enforcement efforts.

28 | (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the  
29 | department shall create a program to appoint and supervise  
30 | unpaid auxiliary law enforcement officers with statewide  
31 | jurisdiction to support law enforcement agencies throughout the  
32 | state. An auxiliary law enforcement officer appointed under this  
33 | paragraph shall not be considered as holding an office under the  
34 | government of the state or the counties and municipalities  
35 | therein as a result of the appointment.

36 | (18) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, non-  
37 | high-liability law enforcement officer training courses of eight  
38 | or fewer students taught using a virtual classroom may be  
39 | conducted from any location without a commission-certified  
40 | instructor present in the classroom.

41 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.