

House Bill 238

By: Representatives Lumsden of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Crowe of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Gunter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, and McDonald III of the 26<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 employment and training of police officers, so as to require the Georgia Peace Officer  
3 Standards and Training Council to create and maintain an at-risk adult training course  
4 focusing on officer response to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or dementia; to provide  
5 for requirements for such course; to provide for collaborative course development with the  
6 Division of Aging Services; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
7 other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and  
11 training of police officers, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "35-8-28.

13 (a) The council shall create and maintain an at-risk adult training course available to all  
14 peace officers relating to responding to at-risk adults, including those individuals living  
15 with Alzheimer's disease or other form dementia.

16 (b) Such training course shall, at a minimum, provide training in:

H. B. 238

- 17 (1) Investigating criminal violations involving benefits trafficking and related offenses;  
18 (2) Investigating criminal violations involving the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a  
19 disabled adult or elder person;  
20 (3) Responding to reports of missing persons;  
21 (4) Interacting with victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in a victim centered and  
22 trauma informed way; and  
23 (5) Certain aspects of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia and cognitive  
24 impairment, including;  
25 (A) Instruction in interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other forms  
26 of dementia;  
27 (B) Techniques for recognizing the behavioral symptoms and characteristics of  
28 Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia;  
29 (C) Techniques for effective communication with persons with Alzheimer's disease and  
30 other forms of dementia;  
31 (D) Techniques for employing alternatives to physical restraints; and  
32 (E) Protocols for contacting caregivers when an individual with Alzheimer's disease  
33 or other form of dementia is found wandering or during an emergency situation.  
34 (c) The training course provided for in this Code section shall be developed by the council  
35 in collaboration with forensic special initiatives unit of the Division of Aging of the  
36 Department of Human Services.  
37 (d) The number of hours and specific curriculum required for the training course provided  
38 for in this Code section shall be at the discretion of council."

39 **SECTION 2.**

40 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.