

HOUSE BILL 614

By Hakeem

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-107, relative to law enforcement officer training.

WHEREAS, exposing law enforcement officers to diverse communities can help them to better learn the way minority individuals communicate and interact; and

WHEREAS, through positive interactions with minority individuals, law enforcement officers may view certain actions as less of a threat when encountered in the line of duty; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-107, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(f) The commission shall develop a continuing education training curriculum concerning diversity, race relations, and cultural awareness, and shall provide the curriculum to all law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The commission shall issue a certificate of compliance to any law enforcement officer who satisfactorily completes the training program. In order to remain in compliance with this section, a law enforcement officer must:

- (1) Satisfactorily complete the diversity training program curriculum by July 1, 2022; or
- (2) Satisfactorily complete the diversity training program curriculum within six (6) months of the officer's date of employment.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-107, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting:

(a) The commission shall issue a certificate of compliance to any person who meets the qualifications for employment and satisfactorily completes an approved recruit training program. All officers employed on and after July 1, 2017, must:

(1) Enroll in an approved recruit training program within six (6) months of their date of employment;

(2) Successfully complete an approved recruit training program as required by this part;

(3) Successfully complete an annual in-service training session appropriate for their rank and responsibilities; and

(4) Successfully complete a diversity training program developed by the commission as required by subsection (f).

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.