

By: Bowers

H.B. No. 568

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to education and training for peace officers on
3 interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other
4 dementias.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 1701.253(j), Occupations Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (j) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the
9 commission shall require an officer to complete a 40-hour statewide
10 education and training program on de-escalation and crisis
11 intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with persons
12 with mental impairments. The program must include instruction on
13 interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other
14 dementias, including instruction on techniques for recognizing
15 symptoms, communicating effectively, employing alternatives to
16 physical restraints, and identifying signs of abuse, neglect, or
17 exploitation. An officer shall complete the program not later than
18 the second anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under
19 this chapter or the date the officer applies for an intermediate
20 proficiency certificate, whichever date is earlier. An officer may
21 not satisfy the requirements of this subsection or Section
22 1701.402(g) by taking an online course on de-escalation and crisis
23 intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with persons
24 with mental impairments.

1 SECTION 2. Not later than April 1, 2024, the Texas
2 Commission on Law Enforcement shall revise the commission's
3 education and training programs as necessary to implement the
4 changes in law made by this Act.

5 SECTION 3. Section 1701.253(j), Occupations Code, as
6 amended by this Act, applies only to a person who submits an
7 application for a peace officer license under Chapter 1701,
8 Occupations Code, on or after April 1, 2024. A person who submits
9 an application for a peace officer license under Chapter 1701,
10 Occupations Code, before April 1, 2024, is governed by the law in
11 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the
12 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.