

By: Lindsay

S.B. No. 1473

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the provision of education and training programs for law enforcement officers regarding persons with mental impairments.

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Bob Meadours Act."

SECTION 2. Section 96.641, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(1) As part of the initial training and continuing education for police chiefs required under this section, the institute shall establish a program on de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with persons with mental impairments. The program must include an examination of the best practices for:

(1) monitoring peace officers' compliance with internal agency policies relating to de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with persons with mental impairments; and

(2) implementing internal agency policies relating to those techniques.

SECTION 3. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

(j) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the

1 commission shall require an officer to complete a statewide  
2 education and training program on de-escalation and crisis  
3 intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with persons  
4 with mental impairments. An officer shall complete the program not  
5 later than the second anniversary of the date the officer is  
6 licensed under this chapter or the date the officer applies for an  
7 intermediate proficiency certificate, whichever date is earlier.

8 SECTION 4. Section 1701.402, Occupations Code, is amended  
9 by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

10 (g) As a requirement for an intermediate proficiency  
11 certificate or an advanced proficiency certificate, an officer must  
12 complete the education and training program described by Section  
13 1701.253 regarding de-escalation and crisis intervention  
14 techniques to facilitate interaction with persons with mental  
15 impairments.

16 SECTION 5. Not later than January 1, 2006, the Bill  
17 Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas shall  
18 establish a program on de-escalation and crisis intervention  
19 techniques to facilitate interaction with persons with mental  
20 impairments as required by Subsection (l), Section 96.641,  
21 Education Code, as added by this Act.

22 SECTION 6. (a) An individual appointed or elected as a  
23 police chief before the effective date of this Act shall complete a  
24 program on de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques to  
25 facilitate interaction with persons with mental impairments  
26 established under Subsection (l), Section 96.641, Education Code,  
27 as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2007.

1           (b) A person who, on September 1, 2005, holds an  
2 intermediate proficiency certificate or an advanced proficiency  
3 certificate issued under Section 1701.402, Occupations Code, or has  
4 held a peace officer license issued by the Commission on Law  
5 Enforcement Officer Standards and Education for more than two years  
6 shall complete an educational training program on de-escalation and  
7 crisis intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with  
8 persons with mental impairments as required by Sections 1701.253  
9 and 1701.402, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, not later  
10 than September 1, 2007.

11           SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.