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S.B. No. 586

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the training of peace officers for family violence and sexual assault assignments.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1701.352(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The commission shall require a state, county, special district, or municipal agency that appoints or employs peace officers to provide each peace officer with a training program at least once every 48 months that is approved by the commission and consists of:

(1) topics selected by the agency; and

(2) for an officer holding only a basic proficiency certificate, not more than 20 hours of education and training that contain curricula incorporating the learning objectives developed by the commission regarding:

(A) civil rights, racial sensitivity, and cultural diversity;

(B) de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with persons with mental impairments;

(C) de-escalation techniques to facilitate interaction with members of the public, including techniques for limiting the use of force resulting in bodily injury; and

1 (D) unless determined by the agency head to be  
2 inconsistent with the officer's assigned duties:

3 (i) the recognition, ~~and~~ documentation,  
4 and investigation of cases that involve child abuse or neglect,  
5 family violence, and sexual assault, including the use of best  
6 practices and trauma-informed techniques to effectively recognize,  
7 document, and investigate those cases; and

8 (ii) issues concerning sex offender  
9 characteristics.

10 SECTION 2. Subchapter I, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is  
11 amended by adding Section 1701.4045 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 1701.4045. CERTIFICATION OF OFFICERS FOR FAMILY  
13 VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ASSIGNMENTS. (a) The commission by  
14 rule shall establish minimum requirements for the training,  
15 testing, and certification of special officers for responding to  
16 allegations of family violence or sexual assault.

17 (b) The commission may certify a peace officer as a special  
18 officer for responding to allegations of family violence or sexual  
19 assault if the person:

20 (1) completes an advanced training course  
21 administered by the commission on recognizing, documenting, and  
22 investigating family violence and sexual assault using best  
23 practices and trauma-informed techniques; and

24 (2) passes an examination administered by the  
25 commission that is designed to test the person's:

26 (A) knowledge and recognition of the signs of  
27 family violence and sexual assault; and

1                   (B) skill at documenting and investigating  
2 family violence and sexual assault using best practices and  
3 trauma-informed techniques.

4                   (c) The commission may issue a professional achievement or  
5 proficiency certificate to a peace officer who meets the  
6 requirements of Subsection (b).

7                   SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
8 of this Act, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall adopt  
9 rules necessary to implement Section 1701.4045, Occupations Code,  
10 as added by this Act.

11                   SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.