

2018 -- H 8251

=====
LC005687
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- COMMISSION ON
STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Marshall, Almeida, McKiernan, and Craven

Date Introduced: May 30, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-28.2-8.3 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-28.2 entitled "Police
2 Officers - Commission on Standards and Training" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~42-28.2-8.3. Educational requirements -- National certified mental health first aid~~
4 ~~training~~ **Educational requirements -- Mental health training.**

5 (a) The commission on standards and training shall prepare and publish mandatory
6 training standards to provide instructions for police officers in identifying and handling of
7 complaints involving mental health/substance abuse emergencies, and victims, witnesses, or
8 suspects with mental illness or substance use disorders and shall develop guidelines for law
9 enforcement responses to incidents involving such persons. The course of instruction shall
10 comply with ~~the certified National Council of Behavioral Health Mental Health First Aid~~
11 ~~Program (MHFA) for law enforcement~~ all minimum standards certified by the commission.

12 Instruction and the guidelines shall include:

13 (1) Identifying and recognizing mental illness, ~~or~~ substance use disorders, and intellectual
14 and developmental disabilities for the benefit of victims and witnesses, the availability of civil
15 remedies and community resources for persons experiencing mental health emergencies, and the
16 protection of persons with mental illness, ~~or~~ substance use disorders, and intellectual and
17 developmental disabilities and for law enforcement officers engaging such persons;

18 (2) Providing information to law enforcement officers to recognize the signs and

1 symptoms of common mental illnesses, ~~and~~ substance use disorders, intellectual and
2 developmental disabilities, de-escalating crisis situations safely, and initiating timely referral to
3 mental health, ~~and~~ substance ~~abuse~~ use disorder, and intellectual and developmental disabilities
4 resources available in the community.

5 (b) The commission shall include training in all curricula for recruits and in-service
6 trainees, in all police academies operating or certified by the commission. ~~All law enforcement~~
7 ~~trainees shall be certified by the National Council of Behavioral Health in Mental Health First~~
8 ~~Aid.~~

9 (c) All law enforcement trainees shall participate in the course of ~~basic~~ minimum
10 standards certified by the commission in training for law enforcement officers, established in this
11 section, as part of their required certification process.

12 (d) Training presenters shall include behavioral health practitioners with expertise in the
13 delivery of direct services to individuals experiencing mental health, ~~or~~ substance use disorder
14 and intellectual and developmental disabilities, ~~abuse~~ emergencies and victims, witnesses, and
15 suspects with mental illness and consumer-survivors i.e. individuals with mental illness, ~~or~~
16 substance use disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Training presentations
17 may utilize the staff of community-based ~~mental~~ behavioral and developmental health treatment
18 facilities.

19 (e) The course of instruction, the learning and performance objectives, the standards for
20 training, and the guidelines shall be developed by the municipal police training committee in
21 consultation with groups and individuals having an interest and expertise in the field of ~~mental~~
22 behavioral and developmental health and community-based treatment.

23 (f) The municipal police training committee periodically shall include within its in-
24 service training curriculum a course of instruction on handling complaints from or against
25 persons with mental illness or substance use disorders or intellectual and developmental
26 disabilities, consistent with the provisions of subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2).

27 (g) As used in this section, the following words and terms shall have the following
28 meanings:

29 (1) "Law enforcement officer" shall mean any officer of a municipal police department or
30 a department of the state.

31 (2) "Consumer-survivor" shall mean any individual suffering from mental health
32 disability or substance abuse disorder.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC005687
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- COMMISSION ON
STANDARDS AND TRAINING

1 This act would require that police officers receive mental health training in compliance
2 with police officer commission certified standards and training for persons suffering from mental
3 illness, substance use disorder, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC005687
=====