

SB80 INTRODUCED



1 SB80
2 EIXN922-1
3 By Senators Smitherman, Singleton
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs
5 First Read: 07-Feb-24



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require law enforcement officers in this state to complete a program of sensitivity training. This bill would also require law enforcement agencies to engage in efforts to recruit social workers licensed at the clinical level of practice to be law enforcement officers. This bill would require law enforcement officers who carry firearms to also carry a non-lethal weapon.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to law enforcement; to require law enforcement officers in this state to complete a program of sensitivity training; to require law enforcement agencies to engage in efforts to recruit social workers licensed at the clinical level of practice to be law enforcement officers; and to require law enforcement officers who carry firearms to also carry a non-lethal weapon.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission shall require a program of sensitivity



SB80 INTRODUCED

29 training to be included in any law enforcement officer academy
30 course of study. The sensitivity training program shall be
31 developed in collaboration with the Alabama Chapter of the
32 National Association of Social Workers or a similar
33 organization.

34 (b) Certified law enforcement officers in this state
35 shall be required to complete and report earned hours of
36 continuing education courses in sensitivity training to the
37 commission.

38 (c) Commencing January 1, 2025, all law enforcement
39 officers certified by the commission shall be required to
40 complete a program of sensitivity training described in
41 subsection (a). The training shall do all of the following:

42 (1) Include focus on social, ethnic, and racial bias,
43 cultural competency and diversity, and law enforcement
44 interaction with minorities, the disabled, the mentally ill,
45 unlawfully present aliens, and other populations.

46 (2) Provide instruction on situational assessment,
47 decision-making, and alternative de-escalation tactics that
48 will better equip law enforcement officer to handle difficult
49 socially volatile situations.

50 (d) The commission shall establish rules and policies
51 to ensure compliance with this section.

52 (e) The commission shall submit a report regarding
53 compliance to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and
54 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate on or before the first
55 day of each regular session of the Legislature.

56 Section 2. Commencing on January 1, 2025, state and



SB80 INTRODUCED

57 local law enforcement agencies shall engage in efforts to
58 recruit social workers licensed at the clinical level of
59 practice into the law enforcement officer workforce. The
60 social workers shall complete all necessary standards and
61 training to become sworn officers of the law. Licensed social
62 workers that become law enforcement officers shall assist law
63 enforcement agencies and first responding agencies in all of
64 the following areas to aid in the mitigation of high intensity
65 situations:

- 66 (1) Human behavior in social environments.
- 67 (2) Crisis intervention.
- 68 (3) Diversity.
- 69 (4) Ethics.
- 70 (5) Diagnostic impression, assessment, and opinion
71 expertise.

72 Section 3. A uniformed law enforcement officer who
73 carries a firearm also shall carry a non-lethal weapon and
74 shall be trained in the appropriate use of that non-lethal
75 weapon.

76 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October
77 1, 2024.