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SENATE BILL 6789

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senator Regala

Read first time 02/05/2002. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing law enforcement officers with training  
2 in interaction with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons;  
3 and adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.101 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The commission must offer a training session on law enforcement  
8 interaction with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons.  
9 The training must be developed by the commission in consultation with  
10 appropriate community, local, and state organizations and agencies that  
11 have expertise in the area of mental illness and developmental  
12 disability, and with appropriate consumer and family advocate groups.  
13 In developing the course, the commission must also examine existing  
14 courses certified by the commission that relate to mentally ill and  
15 developmentally disabled persons.

16 (2) The training must consist of classroom instruction and use  
17 interactive training methods to ensure that the training is as  
18 realistic as possible. The training must include, at a minimum, core  
19 instruction in all of the following:

1       (a) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and developmental  
2 disabilities;

3       (b) How to identify indicators of mental illness and developmental  
4 disability and how to respond appropriately in a variety of common  
5 situations;

6       (c) Conflict resolution and deescalation techniques for potentially  
7 dangerous situations involving mentally ill and developmentally  
8 disabled persons;

9       (d) Appropriate language usage when interacting with mentally ill  
10 and developmentally disabled persons;

11       (e) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with potentially  
12 dangerous mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons; and

13       (f) Community and state resources available to serve mentally ill  
14 and developmentally disabled persons and how these resources can be  
15 best used by law enforcement to benefit the mentally ill and  
16 developmentally disabled community.

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