
SENATE BILL 5473

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, B. Sheldon, Johnson, Kohl-Welles, Winsley and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/27/2003. 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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