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HOUSE BILL 1931

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Lantz, Hankins, Chase, Dunshee, Flannigan, Veloria and Haigh

Read first time 02/17/2003. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing law enforcement officers with training  
2 in interaction with people with developmental disabilities and mental  
3 illness; 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 people with developmental disabilities and/or mental  
9 illness. The training must be developed by the commission in  
10 consultation with appropriate community, local, and state organizations  
11 and agencies that have expertise in the area of mental illness and  
12 developmental disability, and with appropriate consumer and family  
13 advocate groups. In developing the course, the commission must also  
14 examine existing courses certified by the commission that relate to  
15 mental illness and developmental disabilities.

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 people with mental illness and/or a  
8 developmental disability;
- 9           (d) Appropriate language usage when interacting with people with  
10 mental illness and/or a developmental disability;
- 11           (e) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with potentially  
12 dangerous people with mental illness and/or a developmental disability;  
13 and
- 14           (f) Community and state resources available to serve people with  
15 mental illness and/or developmental disabilities and how these  
16 resources can be best used by law enforcement to benefit the people  
17 with mental illness and developmental disabilities.

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