

House Bill 571

By: Representatives Neal of the 74th, Jackson of the 128th, Lopez of the 86th, and Lim of the 99th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 employment and training of peace officers, so as to provide for training requirements for
3 mental health operatives; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and
8 training of peace officers, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "35-8-28.

10 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'mental health operative' means any professional
11 or group of professionals who are duly authorized to provide treatment and services to
12 persons who suffer from disorders of thought or mood which significantly impair
13 judgment, behavior, and the capacity to recognize reality.

14 (b) It is the best practice for any person assigned or appointed as a mental health operative
15 working with law enforcement officers and agencies to hold advanced training

16 certifications in their respective disciplines and to complete a training course for such
17 operatives approved by the council.

18 (c) For purposes of subsection (b) of this Code section, the council shall maintain a
19 training course consisting of 40 hours of training for mental health operatives. Such
20 training course shall, at a minimum, provide training on use of force, simulator training,
21 use of force lab (scenario based training), medical (First Aid and CPR), use of law
22 enforcement equipment, criminal offenses, drug awareness, interviews and interrogations,
23 emergency preparedness, and interpersonal interactions with victims and alleged offenders,
24 including the encountering of mental health issues."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.