

SENATE BILL 353

By Gardenhire

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-107, relative to law enforcement officer training.

WHEREAS, a rise in inquiries on the use of force against minority individuals has affected the capability of law enforcement officers to ensure the safety of communities; and

WHEREAS, exposing law enforcement officers to diverse communities can help them to better learn the way minority individuals communicate and interact; and

WHEREAS, through positive interactions with minority individuals, law enforcement officers may view certain actions as less of a threat when encountered in the line of duty; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-107, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (f):

(f) The commission shall develop a continuing education training curriculum concerning diversity, race relations, and cultural awareness, and shall provide the curriculum to all law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The commission shall issue a certificate of compliance to any law enforcement officer who satisfactorily completes the training program. In order to remain in compliance with this section, a law enforcement officer must:

(1) Satisfactorily complete the diversity training program curriculum, and receive a certificate of compliance from the commission by July 1, 2021; or

(2) Satisfactorily complete the diversity training program curriculum, and receive a certificate of compliance from the commission within six (6) months of the officer's date of employment.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-107, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a) The commission shall issue a certificate of compliance to any person who meets the qualifications for employment and satisfactorily completes an approved recruit training program. All officers employed on and after July 1, 2017, must:

(1) Enroll in an approved recruit training program within six (6) months of their date of employment;

(2) Successfully complete an approved recruit training program as required by this part;

(3) Successfully complete an annual in-service training session appropriate for their rank and responsibilities; and

(4) Successfully complete a diversity training program developed by the commission as required by subsection (f).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.