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HOUSE BILL NO. 1222

Offered January 17, 2014

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 37.2-312.2, relating to mental health education and training for first responders.*

Patrons—Watts, Futrell, McClellan and Ward

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 37.2-312.2 as follows:

§ 37.2-312.2. Department responsible for local law-enforcement mental health education and training.

The Department shall develop and implement programs of education and training for local law-enforcement agency personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and other first responders that includes training related to the signs and symptoms of mental illness and individuals experiencing mental health crises and ways that law-enforcement personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and first responders can assist individuals experiencing mental health crises or in need of mental health services, including education and training related to the various types and providers of mental health services available in the community and the various types of facilities to which law-enforcement personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and other first responders may transport individuals experiencing mental health crises or in need of mental health services.

The Department shall also include in such programs education and training related to (i) the types of information about an individual's health and mental health status and needs that law-enforcement personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and other first responders might need to obtain or attempt to obtain from an individual experiencing a mental health crisis or in need of mental health services; (ii) the types of information related to an individual's health and mental health status and needs that law-enforcement personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and other first responders might need to convey to health care providers at the location to which the individual is transported; (iii) the types of information about an individual experiencing a mental health crisis or in need of mental health services that a health care provider may make available to law-enforcement personnel, emergency medical services personnel, or other first responders; and (iv) rules governing confidentiality of medical and other information made available to or by law-enforcement personnel, emergency medical services personnel, or other first responders.

INTRODUCED

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