

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to require the Secretary of Public Safety and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to*  
3 *encourage dissemination of information about specialized training in evidence-based strategies to*  
4 *prevent and minimize mental health crises.*

5 [H 1222]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 1. § 1. *That the Secretary of Public Safety and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall*  
9 *encourage the dissemination of information about specialized training in evidence-based strategies to*  
10 *prevent and minimize mental health crises in all jurisdictions. This information shall be disseminated to,*  
11 *but not limited to, law-enforcement personnel, other first responders, hospital emergency department*  
12 *personnel, school personnel, and other interested parties, to the extent possible. These strategies shall*  
13 *include (i) crisis intervention team (CIT) training for law-enforcement personnel and other first*  
14 *responders as designated by the community CIT task force and (ii) mental health first aid training for*  
15 *other first responders, hospital emergency department personnel, school personnel, and other interested*  
16 *parties. The Secretary of Public Safety and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall*  
17 *encourage adherence to the models of training and achievement of programmatic goals and standards.*  
18 *The goals for CIT training shall include (i) training participants to recognize the signs and symptoms of*  
19 *behavioral health disorders; (ii) teaching participants the skills necessary to de-escalate crisis situations*  
20 *and how to support individuals in crisis; (iii) educating participants about community-based resources*  
21 *available to individuals in crisis; and (iv) enhancing participants' ability to communicate with health*  
22 *systems about the nature of the crisis to include rules regarding confidentiality and protected health*  
23 *information. The goals for mental health first aid training shall be to teach the public (to include first*  
24 *responders, school personnel, and other interested parties) how to recognize symptoms of mental health*  
25 *problems, how to offer and provide initial help, and how to guide a person toward appropriate*  
26 *treatments and other supportive help.*

ENROLLED

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