

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1246ER

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron: Willett

3. Committee: Passed both houses

4. Title: Law-enforcement training; individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to establish compulsory minimum and in-service training standards for law-enforcement officers on communicating with individuals with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability as defined in § 37.2-100, such as autism spectrum disorder as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, which shall include (i) an overview and behavioral recognition of autism spectrum disorder, (ii) best practices for crisis prevention and de-escalation techniques, (iii) an objective review of any relevant tools and technology available to assist in communication, and (iv) education on law-enforcement agency and community resources for the autism community on future crisis prevention. The bill requires that such training standards be established in consultation with at least one individual with autism spectrum disorder, one family member of an individual with autism spectrum disorder, one specialist who works with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, one representative from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and one representative from a state or local law-enforcement agency.

The bill requires the DCJS to establish such training standards by January 1, 2027, and requires any person employed as a law-enforcement officer prior to July 1, 2024, to complete the compulsory in-service training by July 1, 2028.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 391.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final, see Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires DCJS to develop a new compulsory minimum and in-service training standards and curriculum for law enforcement officers related to communicating with individuals with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability, such as autism spectrum disorder. The proposed legislation would add duties to DCJS as well as to the regional law enforcement training academies. DCJS also notes that it currently has a regulatory action pending approval which updates the compulsory minimum training standards for law enforcement officers.

To meet the requirements of this bill, DCJS reports that it will need to contract with consultants and subject matter experts to develop training standards and curriculum. DCJS anticipates a one-time cost of \$125,000 for consultants/subject matter experts to develop the new training standards and curriculum.

According to DCJS, the bill is likely to have a fiscal impact on the local and regional law enforcement training academies as they may have to add additional trainers and training sessions to deliver this training.

Any fiscal impact on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services associated with consultation for establishment of the training standards is not known at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, law enforcement agencies, local and regional law enforcement training academies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.