

HOUSE BILL 361

E4

2lr0735

By: Delegates Pena–Melnyk, Reznik, Barnes, Braveboy, Bromwell, Carr, Costa, Cullison, Donoghue, Elliott, Frank, Frick, Frush, Gilchrist, Gutierrez, Hammen, Hubbard, Ivey, Kach, A. Kelly, Kipke, Krebs, Lee, Luedtke, McDonough, A. Miller, Morhaim, Murphy, Nathan–Pulliam, Oaks, Pendergrass, Ready, Tarrant, and V. Turner

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2012

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Autism Awareness Training Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Police Training Commission to implement a certain
4 program on autism awareness training for certain police officers; prohibiting the
5 Commission from approving or issuing a certificate to a certain school until the
6 school has implemented a certain autism awareness training program;
7 prohibiting the Commission from certifying an individual as a police officer
8 until the individual has completed a certain autism awareness training
9 program; requiring the Commission to adopt certain rules and regulations
10 requiring that previously certified police officers complete certain training by a
11 certain date; requiring a certain autism awareness training program to address
12 certain items; and generally relating to autism awareness training programs.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Public Safety
15 Section 3–207
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2011 Replacement Volume)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Public Safety**

21 3–207.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A)** Subject to the authority of the Secretary, the Commission has the
2 following powers and duties:

3 (1) to establish standards for the approval and continuation of
4 approval of schools that conduct police entrance–level and in–service training courses
5 required by the Commission, including State, regional, county, and municipal training
6 schools;

7 (2) to approve and issue certificates of approval to police training
8 schools;

9 (3) to inspect police training schools;

10 (4) to revoke, for cause, the approval or certificate of approval issued
11 to a police training school;

12 (5) to establish the following for police training schools:

13 (i) curriculum;

14 (ii) minimum courses of study;

15 (iii) attendance requirements;

16 (iv) eligibility requirements;

17 (v) equipment and facilities;

18 (vi) standards of operation; and

19 (vii) minimum qualifications for instructors;

20 (6) to require, for entrance–level police training and at least every 3
21 years for in–service level police training conducted by the State and each county and
22 municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study
23 include special training, attention to, and study of the application and enforcement of:

24 (i) the criminal laws concerning rape and sexual offenses,
25 including the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and related evidentiary
26 procedures;

27 (ii) the contact with and treatment of victims of crimes and
28 delinquent acts;

29 (iii) the notices, services, support, and rights available to victims
30 and victims’ representatives under State law; and

1 (iv) the notification of victims of identity fraud and related
2 crimes of their rights under federal law;

3 (7) to certify and issue appropriate certificates to qualified instructors
4 for police training schools authorized by the Commission to offer police training
5 programs;

6 (8) to verify that police officers have satisfactorily completed training
7 programs and issue diplomas to those police officers;

8 (9) to conduct and operate police training schools authorized by the
9 Commission to offer police training programs;

10 (10) to make a continuous study of entrance-level and in-service
11 training methods and procedures;

12 (11) to consult with and accept the cooperation of any recognized
13 federal, State, or municipal law enforcement agency or educational institution;

14 (12) to consult and cooperate with universities, colleges, and
15 institutions in the State to develop specialized courses of study for police officers in
16 police science and police administration;

17 (13) to consult and cooperate with other agencies and units of the State
18 concerned with police training;

19 (14) to develop, with the cooperation of the Office of the Chief Medical
20 Examiner and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a uniform missing person report
21 form to be available for use by each law enforcement agency of the State on or before
22 October 1, 2008;

23 (15) to require, for entrance-level police training and annually for
24 in-service level police training conducted by the State and each county and municipal
25 police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include, for
26 police officers who are issued an electronic control device by a law enforcement agency,
27 special training in the proper use of electronic control devices, as defined in § 4-109 of
28 the Criminal Law Article, consistent with established law enforcement standards and
29 federal and State constitutional provisions;

30 (16) to develop, with the cooperation of the Office of the Attorney
31 General, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and the Federal
32 Trade Commission, a uniform identity fraud reporting form that:

33 (i) makes transmitted data available on or before October 1,
34 2011, for use by each law enforcement agency of State and local government; and

1 (ii) may authorize the data to be transmitted to the Consumer
2 Sentinel program in the Federal Trade Commission; [and]

3 (17) TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTISM AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM
4 THAT CONFORMS TO GENERALLY ACCEPTED FEDERAL STANDARDS; AND

5 (18) to perform any other act that is necessary or appropriate to carry
6 out the powers and duties of the Commission under this subtitle.

7 (B) (1) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT APPROVE OR ISSUE A
8 CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO A POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL UNTIL THE SCHOOL
9 DEMONSTRATES THAT IT HAS IMPLEMENTED AN AUTISM AWARENESS TRAINING
10 PROGRAM AS PART OF ITS CURRICULUM.

11 (2) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT CERTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL AS A
12 POLICE OFFICER UNTIL THE INDIVIDUAL HAS COMPLETED AN AUTISM
13 AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM.

14 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS
15 THAT REQUIRE EACH POLICE OFFICER CERTIFIED PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 2012,
16 TO COMPLETE AN AUTISM AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM AS PART OF
17 IN-SERVICE TRAINING BY OCTOBER 1, 2015.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the autism awareness
19 training program described in Section 1 of this Act shall address, at a minimum:

20 (1) the nature and manifestations of autism spectrum disorders;

21 (2) appropriate techniques for interviewing or interrogating an
22 individual with an autism spectrum disorder;

23 (3) techniques for locating an individual with an autism spectrum
24 disorder who wanders, and returning the individual, while avoiding risk of injury to
25 the rescuing party and causing as little distress as possible to the individual with the
26 disorder;

27 (4) guidelines for appropriate techniques to be used when arresting or
28 restraining an individual with an autism spectrum disorder; and

29 (5) techniques for differentiating between an individual with an
30 autism spectrum disorder from an individual who is belligerent, uncooperative, or
31 otherwise displaying traits similar to an individual with the disorder.

32 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2012.