

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 807

By Doggett

A RESOLUTION to urge the P.O.S.T. Commission to include P.O.S.T.-certified training on interacting with individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorder.

WHEREAS, the Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Commission is responsible for developing and enforcing standards and training for all local police officers in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the primary regulatory body for Tennessee law enforcement, the P.O.S.T. Commission also promotes continuing law enforcement training for all full-time peace officers in the State; and

WHEREAS, with the growing prevalence of autism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the United States, it is vital to the State of Tennessee that the P.O.S.T. Commission include P.O.S.T.-certified training on interacting with individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, reports cite that the rate of autism spectrum disorder is now nearly one in fifty-nine schoolchildren, resulting in the likelihood that first responders will encounter someone with ASD during their careers; and

WHEREAS, training for law enforcement officers would provide instruction on how to interact appropriately and professionally with individuals on the autism spectrum in community and emergency settings and thus reduce the possibility of misunderstanding or escalation when a real event arises; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the P.O.S.T. Commission to include P.O.S.T.-certified

training on interacting with individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorder in its 2020 law enforcement course offerings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to each member of the P.O.S.T. Commission.