

1 SB66  
2 182191-2  
3 By Senator Bussman  
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs  
5 First Read: 09-JAN-18

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL  
8 TO BE ENTITLED  
9 AN ACT

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11 To amend Section 36-21-46, Code of Alabama 1975,  
12 relating to the Peace Officers' Standards and Training  
13 Commission; to provide that graduation from a nonpublic  
14 education program satisfies the education component for an  
15 applicant to become a law enforcement officer in the state.  
16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

17 Section 1. Section 36-21-46 of the Code of Alabama  
18 1975, is amended to read as follows:

19 "§36-21-46.

20 "(a) The standards provided in this subsection shall  
21 apply to applicants and appointees as law enforcement  
22 officers. No city, town, county, sheriff, constable, or other  
23 employer shall employ any applicant unless the person submits  
24 to the appointing authority an application for employment  
25 verified by affidavit of the applicant and showing compliance  
26 with the following qualifications:

1           "(1) AGE. The applicant shall be not less than 19  
2 years of age at the time of appointment.

3           "(2) EDUCATION. The applicant shall be a graduate of  
4 a high school accredited with or approved by the State  
5 Department of Education ~~or,~~ shall be the holder of a  
6 certificate of high school equivalency issued by general  
7 educational development, or shall be a graduate of nonpublic  
8 education including, but not limited to, a private, church,  
9 parochial, or religious school or a home-school program.

10           "(3) TRAINING. Prior to certification, the applicant  
11 shall complete the required course of training established by  
12 the commission. An applicant may be provisionally appointed  
13 for a period of six months. No individual may be employed for  
14 an additional period until that individual is certified by the  
15 commission.

16           In addition to other components provided by law,  
17 commencing on January 1, 2019, the required course of training  
18 shall include sensitivity training that focuses on ethnic and  
19 racial bias, cultural diversity, and law enforcement  
20 interaction with the disabled, mentally ill, and immigrants.  
21 Sensitivity training shall provide instruction on limiting the  
22 use of certain types of force, such as choke holds, legal  
23 boundaries of justifiable force, and alternative de-escalation  
24 tactics that better equip law enforcement officers to handle  
25 difficult situations. Sensitivity training shall consist of a  
26 minimum of eight hours for academy enrollees and a minimum of  
27 four hours for academy graduates. The Alabama State Law

1 Enforcement Agency shall adopt and provide forms to the  
2 commission and law enforcement officers for reporting  
3 compliance with this subdivision to the agency and shall  
4 provide an annual report regarding compliance to the Speaker  
5 of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore  
6 of the Senate on or before the first day of each regular  
7 session of the Legislature.

8           "(4) PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS. The applicant shall be  
9 certified by a licensed physician designated as satisfactory  
10 by the appointing authority as in good health and physically  
11 fit for the performance of the duties of a law enforcement  
12 officer.

13           "(5) CHARACTER. The applicant shall be a person of  
14 good moral character and reputation. In making this  
15 determination, the commission shall consider convictions for  
16 misdemeanors and other factors set forth in its duly adopted  
17 and promulgated rules. No person who has been convicted of a  
18 felony shall be certified, employed, appointed, or approved by  
19 the commission as a law enforcement officer.

20           "(b) The foregoing requirements shall not apply to  
21 any person who is presently employed as a law enforcement  
22 officer in the state and who continues to be so employed when  
23 he or she makes application for or is employed as a law  
24 enforcement officer in a different capacity or for a different  
25 employer."

1                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate  
committee on Education and Youth Affairs ..... 09-JAN-18

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-  
dar..... 18-JAN-18

Read for the third time and passed as amended .... 01-MAR-18

Yeas 26  
Nays 1

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.