

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 2, 2008

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1531**

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**Introduced by Senators Correa, Alquist, and Steinberg**

February 22, 2008

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An act to add Section 13515.35 to the Penal Code, relating to peace officers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1531, as amended, Correa. Peace officer training: autistic persons.

Existing law provides that the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training establish and keep updated various training programs to maintain the level of competence of various law enforcement officers.

This bill would require the commission, by January 1, 2010, to create and make available on DVD and electronically a course on how to recognize and interact with autistic persons. This course shall be designed for, and made available to, *Peace Officers who are first responders, as defined, to emergency situations*. *This bill would specify that the commission shall develop the course in consultation with designated entities, and distribute, as necessary, a training bulletin via the Internet to specified law enforcement agencies.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 13515.35 is added to the Penal Code, to  
2 read:  
3 13515.35. (a) The commission shall, by January 1, 2010, create  
4 and make available on DVD and electronically a course on how

1 to recognize and interact with ~~autistic persons~~ *persons with autistic*  
2 *spectrum disorders*. This course shall be designed for, and made  
3 available to, *Peace Officers who are* first responders to emergency  
4 situations.

5 ~~(b) For the purposes of this section “first responders” means~~  
6 ~~peace officers, firefighters, ambulance attendants, and other~~  
7 ~~emergency workers.~~

8 *(b) The training course shall be developed by the commission*  
9 *in consultation with the Department of Developmental Services*  
10 *and appropriate community, local, or other state organizations*  
11 *and agencies that have expertise in the area of autism spectrum*  
12 *disorders. The commission shall make the course available to law*  
13 *enforcement agencies in California.*

14 *(c) In addition to the duties contained in subdivisions (a) and*  
15 *(b), the commission shall distribute, as necessary, a training*  
16 *bulletin via the Internet to law enforcement agencies participating*  
17 *in the commission’s program on the topic of autism spectrum*  
18 *disorders.*