

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 8, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 26, 2016

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1221**

**Introduced by Senator Hertzberg**

**(Coauthor: Senator Bates)**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, and  
Maienschein)*

February 18, 2016

An act to amend Section 13515.25 of the Penal Code, relating to firefighters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1221, as amended, Hertzberg. Firefighters: interaction with ~~mentally disabled persons~~; *persons with mental disabilities*.

Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to establish a continuing education classroom training course related to law enforcement interaction with mentally disabled persons and to make the course available to law enforcement agencies in California.

This bill would authorize the commission to make the course available to the State Fire Marshal. The bill would delete an obsolete reporting requirement and make a conforming change.

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 13515.25 of the Penal Code is amended
- 2 to read:

1 13515.25. (a) The Commission on Peace Officer Standards  
2 and Training shall establish and keep updated a continuing  
3 education classroom training course relating to law enforcement  
4 interaction with ~~mentally disabled persons~~. *persons with mental*  
5 *disabilities*. The training course shall be developed by the  
6 commission in consultation with appropriate community, local,  
7 and state organizations and agencies that have expertise in the area  
8 of mental illness and developmental disability, and with appropriate  
9 consumer and family advocate groups. In developing the course,  
10 the commission shall also examine existing courses certified by  
11 the commission that relate to ~~mentally disabled persons~~. *persons*  
12 *with mental disabilities*. The commission shall make the course  
13 available to law enforcement agencies in California.

14 (b) The course described in subdivision (a) shall consist of  
15 classroom instruction and shall utilize interactive training methods  
16 to ensure that the training is as realistic as possible. The course  
17 shall include, at a minimum, core instruction in all of the following:

18 (1) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and developmental  
19 disabilities.

20 (2) How to identify indicators of mental disability and how to  
21 respond appropriately in a variety of common situations.

22 (3) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for  
23 potentially dangerous situations involving ~~mentally disabled~~  
24 ~~persons~~. *a person with a mental disability*.

25 (4) Appropriate language usage when interacting with ~~mentally~~  
26 ~~disabled persons~~. *a person with a mental disability*.

27 (5) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with potentially  
28 dangerous ~~mentally disabled persons~~. *persons with mental*  
29 *disabilities*.

30 (6) Community and state resources available to serve ~~mentally~~  
31 ~~disabled persons~~ *with mental disabilities* and how these resources  
32 can be best utilized by law enforcement to benefit the mentally  
33 disabled community.

34 (7) The fact that a crime committed in whole or in part because  
35 of an actual or perceived disability of the victim is a hate crime  
36 punishable under Title 11.6 (commencing with Section 422.55)  
37 of Part 1.

38 (c) The course described in subdivision (a) shall be shared with  
39 the State Fire Marshal, who may revise the course as appropriate  
40 to the firefighter training environment.

1 (d) The Legislature encourages law enforcement agencies to  
2 include the course created in this section, and any other course  
3 certified by the commission relating to ~~mentally disabled persons~~,  
4 *persons with mental disabilities*, as part of their advanced officer  
5 training program.

6 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature to reevaluate the extent to  
7 which law enforcement officers are receiving adequate training in  
8 how to interact with ~~mentally disabled persons~~. *persons with mental*  
9 *disabilities*.

O