



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
|| BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 221
Printer's No. 464

Prime Sponsor: Representative Caltagirone
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Act and the Judicial Code to provide that municipal police officers and magisterial district judges receive training regarding persons with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and autism.

SUMMARY:

This bill amends Section 3118 of Title 42 (relating to content of course of instruction and examination for magisterial district judges) in order to add the subject of the identification of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and autism and the availability of diversionary options for individuals with those conditions. The bill limits requires this training to occur once every six years.

The bill amends the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Act to require that police officers be trained in (1) the recognition of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and autism; (2) proper techniques to interact with and de-escalate individuals suffering from mental health episodes or episodes stemming from intellectual disabilities or autism, and (3) instruction on services available to individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, or autism.

Effective Date: This bill is effective in sixty days.

BILL HISTORY:

The bill was amended in the House of Representatives to include autism. The bill, as amended, passed the House by a vote of 197-1.

Prepared by: Patrick Cawley 2/26/2015