

**Senate Bill No. 11**

**CHAPTER 468**

An act to add Sections 13515.26 and 13515.27 to the Penal Code, relating to peace officer training standards.

[Approved by Governor October 3, 2015. Filed with  
Secretary of State October 3, 2015.]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

**SB 11, Beall. Peace officer training: mental health.**

Existing law requires specified categories of law enforcement officers to meet training standards pursuant to courses of training certified by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). Existing law requires POST to include in its basic training course adequate instruction in the handling of persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, or both. Existing law also requires POST to establish and keep updated a continuing education classroom training course relating to law enforcement interaction with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons.

This bill would require POST to review the training module relating to persons with a mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance abuse disorder in its basic training course, and develop additional training to better prepare law enforcement officers to recognize, deescalate, and appropriately respond to persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance use disorders. The bill would require that this training be at least 15 hours, address issues relating to stigma, be culturally relevant and appropriate, include training scenarios and facilitated learning activities, and be included in the current hour requirement of the regular basic course.

The bill would also require POST to establish and keep updated a classroom-based continuing training course that includes instructor-led active learning relating to behavioral health and law enforcement interaction with persons with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and substance use disorders. The bill would require that this continuing training course be at least 3 consecutive hours. The bill would require this course be made available to each law enforcement officer with a rank of supervisor or below and who is assigned to patrol duties or to supervise officers who are assigned to patrol duties.

This bill would require implementation of the training module and continuing training course no later than August 1, 2016.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 13515.26 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

13515.26. (a) The commission shall review the training module in the regular basic course relating to persons with a mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance use disorder, and analyze existing training curricula in order to identify areas where additional training is needed to better prepare law enforcement to effectively address incidents involving mentally disabled persons.

(b) Upon identifying what additional training is needed, the commission shall update the training in consultation with appropriate community, local, and state organizations, and agencies that have expertise in the area of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders, and with appropriate consumer and family advocate groups.

(c) The training shall address issues related to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

(1) Recognizing indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(2) Conflict resolution and deescalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.

(3) Use of force options and alternatives.

(4) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(5) Mental health resources available to the first responders to events that involve mentally disabled persons.

(d) The course of instruction shall be at least 15 hours, and shall include training scenarios and facilitated learning activities relating to law enforcement interaction with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(e) The course shall be presented within the existing hours allotted for the regular basic course.

(f) The commission shall implement this section on or before August 1, 2016.

SEC. 2. Section 13515.27 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

13515.27. (a) The commission shall establish and keep updated a classroom-based continuing training course that includes instructor-led active learning, such as scenario-based training, relating to behavioral health and law enforcement interaction with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(b) This course shall be at least three consecutive hours, may include training scenarios and facilitated learning activities, shall address issues related to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

(1) The cause and nature of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(2) Indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(3) Appropriate responses to a variety of situations involving persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(4) Conflict resolution and deescalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.

(5) Appropriate language usage when interacting with potentially emotionally distressed persons.

(6) Resources available to serve persons with mental illness or intellectual disability.

(7) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(c) The course described in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be made available by the commission to each law enforcement officer with a rank of supervisor or below and who is assigned to patrol duties or to supervise officers who are assigned to patrol duties.

(d) The commission shall implement this section on or before August 1, 2016.

**13515.26.**

(a) The commission shall review the training module in the regular basic course relating to persons with a mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance use disorder, and analyze existing training curricula in order to identify areas where additional training is needed to better prepare law enforcement to effectively address incidents involving mentally disabled persons.

(b) Upon identifying what additional training is needed, the commission shall update the training in consultation with appropriate community, local, and state organizations, and agencies that have expertise in the area of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders, and with appropriate consumer and family advocate groups.

(c) The training shall address issues related to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

(1) Recognizing indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(2) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.

(3) Use of force options and alternatives.

(4) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(5) Mental health resources available to the first responders to events that involve mentally disabled persons.

(d) The course of instruction shall be at least 15 hours, and shall include training scenarios and facilitated learning activities relating to law enforcement interaction with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(e) The course shall be presented within the existing hours allotted for the regular basic course.

(f) The commission shall implement this section on or before August 1, 2016.

*(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 468, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016.)*

**13515.27.**

(a) The commission shall establish and keep updated a classroom-based continuing training course that includes instructor-led active learning, such as scenario-based training, relating to behavioral health and law enforcement interaction with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(b) This course shall be at least three consecutive hours, may include training scenarios and facilitated learning activities, shall address issues related to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

(1) The cause and nature of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(2) Indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(3) Appropriate responses to a variety of situations involving persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(4) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.

(5) Appropriate language usage when interacting with potentially emotionally distressed persons.

(6) Resources available to serve persons with mental illness or intellectual disability.

(7) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(c) The course described in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be made available by the commission to each law enforcement officer with a rank of supervisor or below and who is assigned to patrol duties or to supervise officers who are assigned to patrol duties.

(d) The commission shall implement this section on or before August 1, 2016.

*(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 468, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2016.)*

**Senate Bill No. 29**

**CHAPTER 469**

An act to add Sections 13515.28, 13515.29, and 13515.295 to the Penal Code, relating to peace officer training standards.

[Approved by Governor October 3, 2015. Filed with  
Secretary of State October 3, 2015.]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 29, Beall. Peace officer training: mental health.

Existing law requires specified categories of law enforcement officers to meet training standards pursuant to courses of training certified by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). Existing law requires POST to include in its basic training course adequate instruction in the handling of persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, or both. Existing law also requires POST to establish and keep updated a continuing education classroom training course relating to law enforcement interaction with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons.

This bill would require POST to require field training officers who are instructors for the field training program to have at least 8 hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training, as specified. The bill would also require POST to require as part of its existing field training officer course, at least 4 hours of training relating to competencies of the field training program and police training program that addresses how to interact with persons with mental illness or intellectual disability, to be completed as specified.

By requiring local law enforcement field training officers to have at least 8 additional hours of training and imposing additional training costs on local law enforcement agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 13515.28 is added to the Penal Code, to read:  
13515.28. (a) (1) The commission shall require the field training officers who provide instruction in the field training program to have at least eight

hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training to better train new peace officers on how to effectively interact with persons with mental illness or intellectual disability. This course shall include classroom instruction and instructor-led active learning, such as scenario-based training, and shall be taught in segments that are at least four hours long.

(2) If a field training officer has completed eight hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training within the past 24 months, or if a field training officer has completed 40 hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training, the requirement described in paragraph (1) shall not apply.

(b) The crisis intervention behavioral health training shall address issues relating to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

(1) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities.

(2) (A) How to identify indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(B) How to distinguish between mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(C) How to respond appropriately in a variety of situations involving persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(3) Conflict resolution and deescalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.

(4) Appropriate language usage when interacting with potentially emotionally distressed persons.

(5) Community and state resources available to serve persons with mental illness or intellectual disability, and how these resources can be best utilized by law enforcement.

(6) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(c) Field training officers assigned or appointed before January 1, 2017, shall complete the crisis intervention behavioral health training by June 30, 2017. Field training officers assigned or appointed on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete the crisis intervention behavioral health training within 180 days of assignment or appointment.

(d) This section does not prevent an agency from requiring its field training officers to complete additional hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training or requiring its field training officers to complete that training earlier than as required by this section.

SEC. 2. Section 13515.29 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

13515.29. (a) The commission shall establish and keep updated a field training officer course relating to competencies of the field training program and police training program that addresses how to interact with persons with mental illness or intellectual disability.

(b) This course shall consist of at least four hours of classroom instruction and instructor-led active learning, such as scenario-based training, shall

address issues related to stigma, and shall be culturally relevant and appropriate.

(c) All prospective field training officers shall complete the course described in subdivisions (a) and (b) as part of the existing field training officer program.

(d) The commission shall implement the provisions of this section on or before August 1, 2016.

SEC. 3. Section 13515.295 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

13515.295. (a) The commission shall, by May 1, 2016, conduct a review and evaluation of the required competencies of the field training program and police training program to identify areas where additional training is necessary to better prepare law enforcement officers to effectively address incidents involving persons with a mental illness or intellectual disability.

(b) Upon identifying what additional training is needed, the commission shall update the training in consultation with appropriate community, local, and state organizations, and agencies that have expertise in the area of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and substance abuse disorders, and with appropriate consumer and family advocate groups.

(c) The training shall address issues related to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

(1) How to identify indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, substance use disorders, neurological disorders, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and dementia.

(2) Autism spectrum disorder.

(3) Genetic disorders, including, but not limited to, Down syndrome.

(4) Conflict resolution and deescalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.

(5) Alternatives to the use of force when interacting with potentially dangerous persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities.

(6) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(7) Involuntary holds.

(8) Community and state resources available to serve persons with mental illness or intellectual disability, and how these resources can be best utilized by law enforcement.

SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

**13515.28.**

(a) (1) The commission shall require the field training officers who provide instruction in the field training program to have at least eight hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training to better train new peace officers on how to effectively interact with persons with mental illness or intellectual disability. This course shall include classroom instruction and instructor-led active learning, such as scenario-based training, and shall be taught in segments that are at least four hours long.

(2) If a field training officer has completed eight hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training within the past 24 months, or if a field training officer has completed 40 hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training, the requirement described in paragraph (1) shall not apply.

(b) The crisis intervention behavioral health training shall address issues relating to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

(1) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities.

(2) (A) How to identify indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(B) How to distinguish between mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(C) How to respond appropriately in a variety of situations involving persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(3) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.

(4) Appropriate language usage when interacting with potentially emotionally distressed persons.

(5) Community and state resources available to serve persons with mental illness or intellectual disability, and how these resources can be best utilized by law enforcement.

(6) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.

(c) Field training officers assigned or appointed before January 1, 2017, shall complete the crisis intervention behavioral health training by June 30, 2017. Field training officers assigned or appointed on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete the crisis intervention behavioral health training within 180 days of assignment or appointment.

(d) This section does not prevent an agency from requiring its field training officers to complete additional hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training or requiring its field training officers to complete that training earlier than as required by this section.

*(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 469, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016.)*

### **13515.29.**

(a) The commission shall establish and keep updated a field training officer course relating to competencies of the field training program and police training program that addresses how to interact with persons with mental illness or intellectual disability.

(b) This course shall consist of at least four hours of classroom instruction and instructor-led active learning, such as scenario-based training, shall address issues related to stigma, and shall be culturally relevant and appropriate.

(c) All prospective field training officers shall complete the course described in subdivisions (a) and (b) as part of the existing field training officer program.

(d) The commission shall implement the provisions of this section on or before August 1, 2016.

*(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 469, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2016.)*

### **13515.295.**

(a) The commission shall, by May 1, 2016, conduct a review and evaluation of the required competencies of the field training program and police training program to identify areas where additional training is necessary to better prepare law enforcement officers to effectively address incidents involving persons with a mental illness or intellectual disability.

(b) Upon identifying what additional training is needed, the commission shall update the training in consultation with appropriate community, local, and state organizations, and agencies that have expertise in the area of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and substance abuse disorders, and with appropriate consumer and family advocate groups.

(c) The training shall address issues related to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following topics:

- (1) How to identify indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, substance use disorders, neurological disorders, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and dementia.
  - (2) Autism spectrum disorder.
  - (3) Genetic disorders, including, but not limited to, Down syndrome.
  - (4) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations.
  - (5) Alternatives to the use of force when interacting with potentially dangerous persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities.
  - (6) The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders.
  - (7) Involuntary holds.
  - (8) Community and state resources available to serve persons with mental illness or intellectual disability, and how these resources can be best utilized by law enforcement.
- (Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 469, Sec. 3. Effective January 1, 2016.)*

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### Quick Links

- [Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Training](#)
- [Crisis Intervention Team](#)
- [Crisis Intervention Training via POST Course Catalog](#)
- [Mental Health Training in Law Enforcement](#)
- [Mental Health Training in the Regular Basic Course](#)
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## Mental Health Training and Resources

The following mental health training resources have been provided for your convenience. The resources are not intended to be comprehensive.

### Mental Health Training Courses

#### Course Catalog

Visit the [California POST Course Catalog](#) for POST certified mental health training courses and crisis intervention courses.

#### Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Training Senate Bill 11

*"Police Response to People with Mental Illness, Intellectual Disabilities, and Substance Use Disorders"*

The Commission on POST is pleased to present this training curriculum on law enforcement response to people with mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance use disorders. This course was developed pursuant to legislative mandate Senate Bill 11 (Beale) as codified in Penal Code Section 13515.27(a). Agencies may utilize the [Hourly Distribution and Expanded Course Outline provided in the Instructor Guidelines \(docx\)](#) to certify this course with their Regional Consultant. Law enforcement officers are not mandated to take this course.

#### Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Training Senate Bill 29

#### Expanded Course Outline and Hourly Distribution

Senate Bill 29 (SB29) requires Field Training Officers who are instructors for the field training program to have at least 8 hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training. Agencies may certify this [expanded course outline \(ECO\)](#) (pdf) and [hourly distribution](#) (pdf) through their Regional Consultant to present an 8 hour behavioral health course that satisfies the 8 hour training requirement for FTOs.

- ▶ [POST Training Videos](#)
- ▶ [Upcoming Conferences](#)



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**Additional Resources**

- [Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Training](#)
- [Crisis Intervention Team](#)
- [Crisis Intervention Training via POST Course Catalog](#)
- [Mental Health Training and Resources](#)
- [Mental Health Training in the Regular Basic Course](#)
- [SB11 and SB29 Impact](#)

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**Mental Health Training in Law Enforcement**

Peace officers in California and across the nation are frequently called upon to manage incidents involving people with mental illness in crisis. Specialized training on the topic of mental health helps to prepare peace officers to resolve these incidents in a safe and effective manner. This webpage is designed to provide current information and resources on mental health training for law enforcement.

**Watch Did You Know? - "Mental Health" Video****Mental Health Training in the Regular Basic Course**

Effective initial training in the Regular Basic Course (RBC) is crucial if a law enforcement academy trainee is to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to mature into a peace officer who renders high-quality service. Before trainees graduate from the RBC, they must complete training on subject matter that covers 42 different law enforcement topics. Each identified topic is called a Learning Domain. One of the topics covered is Learning Domain 37: People with Disabilities (LD37). It provides trainees instruction on disability laws, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental illness.

[Read more information regarding mental health training in the Regular Basic Course](#)

**Continuing Professional Training and Perishable Skills/Communications Training**

Continuing Professional Training (CPT) and Perishable Skills/Communications Program (PSP) training updates and/or refresher courses are required for certain peace officer and dispatch personnel who are employed by POST participating departments. The purpose of CPT and PSP training is to maintain, update, expand, and/or enhance an individual's knowledge and/or skills.

CPT exceeds the training required to meet or requalify in entry-level minimum standards. Every peace officer (other than a level III Reserve Peace Officer), Public Safety Dispatcher, and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor shall satisfactorily complete the CPT requirement of 24 or more hours of POST-qualifying training during every 2-year CPT cycle. A portion of the CPT requirement may be satisfied when a peace officer completes a POST-Certified Mental Health training course.

PSP training is required of all peace officers (except reserve officers) below the middle management position and assigned to patrol, traffic, or investigation who routinely effect the physical arrest of criminal suspects. PSP training satisfies a portion of the required 24 hours of CPT. The PSP training requirement of 2 hours every 2 years in "communication" (either tactical or interpersonal) may be satisfied when a peace officer completes a POST-Certified Mental Health training course that meets the minimum content and exercises for Communications.

**Mental Health Training and Resources**

There are a variety of mental health training courses, conferences, and resources available to California law enforcement to learn more about mental health.

[View mental health training and resources](#)

**The Crisis Intervention Team**

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a community partnership between law enforcement, county health services, mental health advocates, and mental health consumers. The CIT addresses the needs of mental health consumers who enter the judicial system when they are in a crisis state.

[Read more information regarding the Crisis Intervention Team.](#)

**Reimbursement**

POST is authorized to approve Plan IV Reimbursements for peace officers and dispatchers attending POST-certified mental health training courses.

