

HB 1481 -- COMMUNITY RELATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PEACE OFFICERS

SPONSOR: Walton Gray

This bill establishes the Community Relations Training Program for Peace Officers. Peace officers will receive training in diversity, sensitivity, and cultural competency, as well as training aimed at maintaining open avenues of communication between communities and police departments throughout Missouri.

All peace officers will be required to attend the training upon hire and every three years. The training will include discipline, public information activity, and efficient front-line police work.

Each state licensed training center will be responsible for developing a curriculum for the training as specified in the bill. The curriculum must be taught by an experienced law enforcement officer who maintains liaisons with communities throughout Missouri and is a member of the Community Relations Division.

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to create a Community Relations Division consisting of at least two police chiefs, two sheriffs, and one person who will be a chief executive officer of a certified training academy to perform the division's duties.

The division will act as a liaison for community leaders and activists, and gather information to use in community relations training for peace officers. The division must also respond to the scene of high-profile incidents involving law enforcement and members of the public.

The bill creates the Community Relations Training Fund for Peace Officers, which must be used solely for the administration of this section.

The provisions of this bill will expire six years after the effective date.

This bill is similar to HB 51 (2015).