

House Bill No. 1481

An act relating to law enforcement academies; amending s. 943.14, F.S.; requiring a criminal history background check prior to entrance into a basic recruit class; amending s. 943.17, F.S.; requiring basic recruit candidates pass a basic skills examination; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 943.14, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9), and a new subsection (8) is added to said section to read:

943.14 Criminal justice training schools; certificates and diplomas; exemptions; injunctive relief; fines.—

(8) Each criminal justice training school that offers law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer basic recruit training, or selection center that provides applicant screening for criminal justice training schools, shall conduct a criminal history background check of an applicant prior to entrance into the basic recruit class. A complete set of fingerprints must be taken by an authorized criminal justice agency or by an employee of the criminal justice training school or selection center who is trained to take fingerprints. The criminal justice training school or selection center shall submit the fingerprints to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history check, and forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. Applicants found through fingerprint processing to have pled guilty to or been convicted of a crime which would render the applicant unable to meet the minimum qualifications for employment as an officer as specified in s. 943.13(4) shall be removed from the pool of qualified candidates by the criminal justice training school or selection center.

Section 2. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of section 943.17, Florida Statutes, to read:

943.17 Basic recruit, advanced, and career development training programs; participation; cost; evaluation.—The commission shall, by rule, design, implement, maintain, evaluate, and revise job-related curricula and performance standards for basic recruit, advanced, and career development training programs and courses. The rules shall include, but are not limited to, a methodology to assess relevance of the subject matter to the job, student performance, and instructor competency.

(1) The commission shall:

(g) Assure that entrance into the basic recruit training program for law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officers be limited to those who have passed a basic skills examination and assessment instru-

ment, based on a job task analysis in each discipline and adopted by the commission.

Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2001.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2000.