

SENATE BILL NO. 380—SENATORS OHRENSCHALL;  
AND DONDERO LOOP

MARCH 17, 2025

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to autism spectrum disorders. (BDR 23-118)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to autism; requiring peace officers to complete certain training concerning autism spectrum disorders; authorizing an applicant for registration as a registered behavior technician to engage in the supervised practice of applied behavior analysis under certain conditions; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law requires a peace officer, as a condition of certification, to complete training concerning identifying and interacting with persons with developmental disabilities, including, without limitation, autism. (NRS 289.605) **Section 3** of this bill requires such training to include at least 4 hours of in-person instruction in certain specific topics relating to autism spectrum disorders. **Section 2** of this bill requires continuing education for peace officers to include training in interactions with persons with developmental disabilities, including training on recognizing and responding to persons with an autism spectrum disorder. **Section 1** of this bill defines the term "autism spectrum disorder" for the purposes of **sections 2 and 3**.

Existing law provides for the registration of registered behavior technicians who provide applied behavior analysis services under the supervision of a licensed behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst to persons with autism spectrum disorder in this State. (NRS 641D.300, 641D.310, 641D.600, 641D.610) Existing law requires the Board of Applied Behavior Analysis to issue a determination to an applicant for registration as a registered behavior technician not more than 120 days after receiving his or her application for registration. (NRS 641D.310) **Section 4** of this bill authorizes an applicant for such registration to engage in the practice of applied behavior analysis under the direct supervision of a licensed behavior analyst until the Board issues a determination.



\* S B 3 8 0 \*

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     **Section 1.** NRS 289.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2     289.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
3 requires:

4     1. "Administrative file" means any file of a peace officer  
5 containing information, comments or documents about the peace  
6 officer. The term does not include any file relating to an  
7 investigation conducted pursuant to NRS 289.057 or a criminal  
8 investigation of a peace officer.

9     2. "Adult use of cannabis" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
10 NRS 678A.075.

11     3. *"Autism spectrum disorder" means a condition that meets*  
12 *the diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder published in*  
13 *the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of*  
14 *Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric*  
15 *Association or the edition thereof that was in effect at the time the*  
16 *condition was diagnosed or determined.*

17     4. "Law enforcement agency" means any agency, office,  
18 bureau, department, unit or division created by any statute,  
19 ordinance or rule which:

20         (a) Has a duty to enforce the law; and

21         (b) Employs any person upon whom some or all of the powers  
22 of a peace officer are conferred pursuant to NRS 289.150 to  
23 289.360, inclusive.

24     ~~{4-}~~ 5. "Medical use of cannabis" has the meaning ascribed to  
25 it in NRS 678A.215.

26     ~~{5-}~~ 6. "Peace officer" means any person upon whom some or  
27 all of the powers of a peace officer are conferred pursuant to NRS  
28 289.150 to 289.360, inclusive.

29     ~~{6-}~~ 7. "Punitive action" means any action which may lead to  
30 dismissal, demotion, suspension, reduction in salary, written  
31 reprimand or transfer of a peace officer for purposes of punishment.

32     ~~{7-}~~ 8. "Screening test" means a test of a person's blood, urine,  
33 hair or saliva to detect the general presence of a controlled substance  
34 or other drug.

35     **Sec. 2.** NRS 289.510 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36     289.510 1. The Commission:

37         (a) Shall meet at the call of the Chair, who must be elected by a  
38 majority vote of the members of the Commission.

39         (b) Shall provide for and encourage the training and education  
40 of persons whose primary duty is law enforcement to ensure the  
41 safety of the residents of and visitors to this State.



(c) May make necessary inquiries to determine whether the agencies of this State and of the local governments are complying with standards set forth in the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 2.

(d) Shall carry out the duties required of the Commission pursuant to NRS 432B.610 and 432B.620.

(e) May perform any other acts that may be necessary and appropriate to the functions of the Commission as set forth in NRS 289.450 to 289.680, inclusive.

(f) May enter into an interlocal agreement with an Indian tribe to provide training to and certification of persons employed as police officers by that Indian tribe.

(g) Shall develop and approve a standard curriculum of certified training programs in crisis intervention, which may be made available in an electronic format, and which address specialized responses to persons with mental illness and train peace officers to identify the signs and symptoms of mental illness, to de-escalate situations involving persons who appear to be experiencing a behavioral health crisis and, if appropriate, to connect such persons to treatment. A peace officer who completes any program developed pursuant to this paragraph must be issued a certificate of completion.

2. The Commission shall adopt regulations establishing minimum standards for:

(a) The certification and decertification, recruitment, selection and training of peace officers. The standards adopted pursuant to this paragraph must:

(1) Establish requirements for evaluations to be conducted during the recruitment and selection of peace officers, which must identify implicit bias on the part of a peace officer on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression;

(2) Establish requirements for basic training for category I, category II and category III peace officers and reserve peace officers;

(3) Establish standards for programs for the continuing education of peace officers, including minimum courses of study and requirements concerning attendance, which must require that all peace officers annually complete not less than 12 hours of continuing education in courses that address:

(I) Racial profiling;

(II) Mental health, including, without limitation, crisis intervention;

(III) The well-being of officers;

(IV) Implicit bias recognition;



(V) De-escalation;

(VI) Human trafficking; ~~and~~

(VII) Firearms; *and*

*(VIII) Interactions with persons with developmental disabilities which must include, without limitation, training on recognizing and responding to persons with an autism spectrum disorder;*

(4) Establish qualifications for instructors of peace officers;

(5) Establish requirements for the certification of a course of training;

(6) Require all peace officers to receive training in the handling of cases involving abuse or neglect of children or missing children;

(7) Require all peace officers to receive training in the handling of cases involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, isolation and abandonment of older persons or vulnerable persons;

(8) Not prohibit the certification of an applicant solely on the basis that the applicant has engaged in the adult use of cannabis or the medical use of cannabis;

(9) Not require the decertification of a peace officer solely on the basis that the peace officer has engaged in the adult use of cannabis or the medical use of cannabis; and

(10) Require the decertification of a peace officer upon a determination by the Commission that the peace officer knowingly provided false or misleading information in his or her application for certification.

(b) An annual behavioral wellness visit for peace officers to aid in preserving the emotional and mental health of the peace officer and assessing any conditions that may affect the performance of duties by the peace officer.

(c) The reciprocity of a person who has been certified as a category III peace officer or its equivalent by the certifying authority of another state or who has successfully completed a federal law enforcement training program that is equivalent to a category III peace officer in this State.

3. The regulations adopted by the Commission pursuant to subsection 2:

(a) Apply to all agencies of this State and of local governments in this State that employ persons as peace officers; and

(b) May require that training be carried on at institutions which it approves in those regulations.

4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a law enforcement agency from adopting a policy that requires a peace officer to submit to a screening test as:

(a) A condition precedent to employment; or



(b) A condition for continued employment.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 289.605 is hereby amended to read as follows:

289.605 1. The Commission shall require, as a condition of the certification of each peace officer, the completion of training concerning identifying and interacting with persons with developmental disabilities. *Such training must include, without limitation, at least 4 hours of in-person training concerning:*

*(a) The nature and manifestation of autism spectrum disorders;*

*(b) Appropriate techniques for interviewing or interrogating a person with an autism spectrum disorder;*

*(c) Techniques for locating a person with an autism spectrum disorder who is missing and in danger, with as little stress as possible for the person with an autism spectrum disorder;*

*(d) Techniques for recognizing the agency of a person with an autism spectrum disorder while identifying potentially abusive or coercive situations;*

*(e) Techniques for deescalating a potentially dangerous situation involving a person with an autism spectrum disorder to protect the safety of the peace officer and the person with an autism spectrum disorder;*

*(f) Techniques for differentiating between a person with an autism spectrum disorder and a person who does not have an autism spectrum disorder but is acting belligerently, uncooperatively or otherwise similarly to a person with an autism spectrum disorder;*

*(g) Procedures to identify and address challenges related to the safety of persons with an autism spectrum disorder in correctional facilities; and*

*(h) The impact of interacting with peace officers on persons with autism spectrum disorders.*

2. Training completed pursuant to this section also satisfies the requirement for such training prescribed by NRS 450B.160 or 450B.180, if applicable.

3. As used in this section, "developmental disability" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 435.007.

**Sec. 4.** NRS 641D.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641D.130 1. A person who has matriculated at an accredited college or university and is not licensed or registered pursuant to this chapter may practice applied behavior analysis under the direct supervision of a licensed behavior analyst as part of:

(a) A program in applied behavior analysis offered by the college or university in which he or she is enrolled; or

(b) An internship or fellowship.



2. *An applicant for a registration as a registered behavior technician who has the qualifications prescribed by NRS 641D.310 may, after submitting an application pursuant to NRS 641D.300 and the fee required by NRS 641D.380, engage in the practice of applied behavior analysis under the direct supervision of a licensed behavior analyst who is professionally and legally responsible for the performance of the applicant until the Board issues a determination pursuant to NRS 641D.310.*

3. A person described in ~~subsection~~ subsections 1 ~~and~~ and 2:

(a) Shall clearly identify himself or herself to any person to whom he or she provides applied behavior analysis services as :

*(1) If he or she is a person described in subsection 1, a student, intern, trainee or fellow; or*

*(2) If he or she is a person described in subsection 2, a registered behavior technician pending registration; and*

(b) Shall not identify himself or herself as a behavior analyst, assistant behavior analyst or registered behavior technician, or represent or imply that he or she is licensed or registered pursuant to this chapter.

**Sec. 5.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On October 1, 2025, for all other purposes.





