

The House Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security offers the following substitute to HR 1599:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging all law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia to implement pre-employment  
2 psychological testing and mental health wellness reviews and improve current training  
3 practices for peace officers; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, we acknowledge and respect the incredibly difficult task law enforcement  
5 officials have each and every day, and we thank them for the dedication demonstrated by  
6 their willingness to serve; and

7 WHEREAS, members of the General Assembly are proud and appreciative of the work our  
8 law enforcement officers do to keep all our communities safe, and we also realize that we  
9 have a duty to ensure law enforcement officials are properly and adequately prepared to serve  
10 these same communities; and

11 WHEREAS, in light of recent tragic events involving law enforcement officers and members  
12 of the public that have damaged and questioned the role of law enforcement in our  
13 communities and the public's interaction with our officers, we are compelled to address  
14 current law enforcement practices and procedures as a state in order to ensure that the law  
15 enforcement community and the public enjoy a mutually respectful relationship; and

16 WHEREAS, we therefore urge the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council  
17 (P.O.S.T.) and state and local law enforcement agencies to implement psychological  
18 evaluation procedures that assess an applicant's ability to adapt in evolving situations, to  
19 think critically, and to safely and effectively resolve conflicts; and

20 WHEREAS, we therefore urge the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council  
21 (P.O.S.T.) and state and local law enforcement agencies to implement mental health wellness  
22 reviews annually and as needed or upon request of a law enforcement officer, during which  
23 time the officer will be apprised of the services offered by the Office of Public Safety  
24 Support which are available to him or her; and

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25 WHEREAS, furthermore, we urge P.O.S.T. and state and local law enforcement agencies to  
26 review and revise current practices for safe and effective conflict resolution, and we further  
27 urge them to take a more proactive and conscious role in enmeshing their departments in  
28 their local community so as to create a greater level of trust between members of the  
29 community and law enforcement officers.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body urge all law enforcement agencies in the state of Georgia to  
32 implement pre-employment psychological testing and mental health wellness reviews and  
33 improve current training practices for peace officers.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 public and the press.