

House Bill 968

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Davis of the 87th, Schofield of the 60th, Sharper of the 177th, and McLeod of the 105th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 25, Code Section 31-11-52, and Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the
2 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to firefighter standards and training,
3 certification and recertification of, and training for, paramedics and cardiac technicians, and
4 employment and training of peace officers, respectively, so as to provide for ethics and
5 diversity training for such professions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 4 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to firefighter
10 standards and training, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "25-4-10.1.

12 Each calendar year beginning in 2024, the basic training courses and the continued
13 certification courses required pursuant to this chapter shall render training on ethics and
14 diversity, including, but not limited to:

15 (1) The history of disenfranchised communities;

- 16 (2) The principle of understanding how aspects of a person's social and political
17 identities combine to create different modes of discrimination and privilege;
18 (3) Identifying and understanding unconscious biases;
19 (4) The meaning of service to community; and
20 (5) How to report unethical actions of fellow firefighters."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Code Section 31-11-52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to certification
23 and recertification of, and training for, paramedics and cardiac technicians, is amended by
24 revising subsection (b) as follows:

25 "(b) The department shall also adopt procedures and standards for its approval of
26 paramedic training courses and cardiac technician training courses which, beginning in the
27 calendar year 2024, shall include training on ethics and diversity in such areas as the
28 history of disenfranchised communities, the principle of understanding how aspects of a
29 person's social and political identities combine to create different modes of discrimination
30 and privilege, identifying and understanding unconscious biases, the meaning of service
31 to community, and how to report unethical actions of fellow paramedics and cardiac
32 technicians. The department shall adopt such regulations after consultation with
33 appropriate public and private agencies and organizations concerned with medical
34 education and the practice of medicine. Procedures and standards adopted by the
35 department shall be consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter."

36 **SECTION 3.**

37 Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and
38 training of peace officers, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

39 "35-8-28.

40 Each calendar year beginning in 2024, every law enforcement unit and the basic training
41 courses required pursuant to this chapter shall render training on ethics and diversity,
42 including, but not limited to:

43 (1) The history of disenfranchised communities;

44 (2) The principle of understanding how aspects of a person's social and political
45 identities combine to create different modes of discrimination and privilege;

46 (3) Identifying and understanding unconscious biases;

47 (4) The meaning of service to community; and

48 (5) How to report unethical actions of fellow officers."

49 **SECTION 4.**

50 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.