

HB 56 -- CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF PEACE OFFICERS

SPONSOR: Walton Gray

Currently, peace officers who make traffic stops are required to receive three hours of training within a three-year reporting period concerning the prohibition against racial profiling and said training must promote the understanding and respect for racial and cultural differences and the use of effective, noncombative methods for carrying out law enforcement duties in a racially and culturally diverse environment. This bill changes this section to apply to all peace officers.

The bill requires any peace officer to complete a module established by the POST commission to determine if he or she is culturally competent. The peace officer must receive a passing score, as determined by the POST commission. If an officer obtains a failing score, he or she must attend training on cultural diversity competency and retest until a passing score is obtained.