

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 624

Introduced by Brashear, 4

Read first time January 19, 1999

Committee: Judiciary

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to law enforcement; to provide for training
2 regarding persons with disabilities; and to provide
3 duties.

4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Nebraska Police Standards Advisory
2 Council shall include, in its curricula and training program
3 requirements established for the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training
4 Center pursuant to section 81-1403, instruction on recognizing and
5 responding to persons with disabilities. Such instruction is
6 intended to enhance the ability of law enforcement officers to
7 recognize the nature and characteristics of various disabilities
8 for the purpose of affording persons with disabilities the same
9 access, services, and protection provided to all citizens and to
10 provide awareness regarding appropriate physical and emotional
11 support for persons with disabilities who seek access to law
12 enforcement services or who come in contact with the law
13 enforcement officers. Training shall include, but not be limited
14 to:

15 (a) Recognition of symptoms and appropriate medical and
16 emotional support for persons experiencing seizures;

17 (b) Sensitivity to and appropriate physical support in
18 aiding persons who are mobility-challenged, who need physical
19 supports, or who use dog guides, hearing aid dogs, and service
20 dogs;

21 (c) Importance of rapid access to interpreters for deaf
22 or hard of hearing persons and persons with speech disabilities who
23 have a need to communicate with law enforcement officers and the
24 use of basic sign language by law enforcement officers;

25 (d) Recognition of the difference between characteristics
26 common to certain disabilities, including, but not limited to,
27 epilepsy, diabetes, and deafness, and those characteristics
28 associated with antisocial or criminal behavior or reaction to

1 alcohol and drug abuse;

2 (e) Recognition of the symptoms of mental retardation,
3 autism, and other developmental disabilities and the impact such
4 disabilities have on communication and interaction between law
5 enforcement officers and persons with disabilities; and

6 (f) Other accommodations to ensure service and
7 programmatic access to all persons with visual, auditory, physical,
8 mental, and emotional disabilities, including diabetes, epilepsy,
9 multiple sclerosis, learning disabilities, hearing loss, and other
10 disabilities.

11 (2) The curricula and training program requirements shall
12 be developed in consultation with the state agencies having
13 expertise in disabilities. The curricula and training program
14 requirements shall be reviewed and updated as necessary every four
15 years.

16 (3) Certified law enforcement officers shall receive
17 inservice training as part of a continuing education program at
18 least every four years regarding the recognition and response to
19 persons with disabilities.

20 (4) For purposes of this section, disability means:

21 (a) Any physical disorder or condition, cosmetic
22 disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the
23 following body systems: Neurological, musculoskeletal, special
24 sense organs, respiratory, including speech organs, cardiovascular,
25 reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin
26 and endocrine;

27 (b) Any mental or psychological disorder such as mental
28 retardation, Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, emotional

1 or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities; or

2 (c) Any contagious and noncontagious disease such as HIV,
3 whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, tuberculosis, muscular
4 dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and
5 conditions such as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing
6 impairments, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy.

7 Disability does not include (i) transvestism,
8 transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender
9 identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments, or
10 other sexual behavior disorders, (ii) compulsive gambling,
11 kleptomania, or pyromania; or (iii) psychoactive substance use
12 disorders resulting from current illegal use of controlled
13 substances as listed in Schedules I through V of section 28-405.