

2026 -- S 2952

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LC005843  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- POLICE OFFICERS --  
COMMISSION ON STANDARDS AND TRAINING -- YOUTH TRAUMA-INFORMED  
POLICING

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, Vargas, Mack, Zurier, Murray, Valverde, Euer,  
Kallman, Acosta, and Pearson

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 42-28.2 of the General Laws entitled "Police Officers —  
2 Commission on Standards and Training" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following  
3 section:

4           **42-28.2-8.6. Training in handling interactions with traumatized youth—Educational**  
5 **requirements.**

6           (a) The commission on standards and training shall prepare and publish mandatory training  
7 standards to provide instructions for police detectives and police officers in handling interactions  
8 with traumatized youth and shall develop guidelines for law enforcement responses to incidents  
9 involving such persons. Instructions and guidelines shall include:

10           (1) Identifying and recognizing the signs and symptoms of youth suffering trauma as a  
11 result of witnessing or resulting from an incident involving an intervention by law enforcement  
12 officers; and

13           (2) Providing information to law enforcement officers on de-escalating crisis situations  
14 involving traumatized youth and initiating timely referrals to resources available in the community.

15           (b) The commission shall include training in all curricula for recruits and in-service trainees  
16 in all police academics operating or certified by the commission.

17           (c) All law enforcements trainees shall participate in the course of basic training for law  
18 enforcement officers, established in this section, as part of their required certification process.

1           (d) Training presenters shall include intellectual/developmental, behavioral and  
2 therapeutical practitioners with expertise in the delivery of direct services to traumatized youths  
3 suffering from incidents requiring a response from law enforcement officers.

4           (e) The course of instruction, the learning and performance objectives, the standards for  
5 training, and the guidelines shall be developed from existing sources for youth trauma-informed  
6 policing from an evidence-based resource, including training on adverse childhood experiences,  
7 trauma triggers and de-escalation strategies in community-based settings.

8           (f) Training presentations may utilize the staff of community-based providers of services  
9 and supports for youth suffering from trauma related incidents as well as videos or webinars  
10 developed by other federal, state or municipal law enforcements agencies.

11           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- POLICE OFFICERS --  
COMMISSION ON STANDARDS AND TRAINING -- YOUTH TRAUMA-INFORMED  
POLICING

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1           This act would require the police officers' commission on standards and training to provide  
2 training and instructions for police detectives, police officers and trainees in order to more  
3 accurately identify complaints involving traumatized youth and to develop law enforcement  
4 responses in dealing with youth suffering from trauma relating to an incident necessitating a  
5 response by law enforcement officers.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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