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|------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
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ACR-60 Peace officers: disability-informed response programs. (2025-2026)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 60

CHAPTER 73

Relative to peace officers.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 28, 2025.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 60, Pacheco. Peace officers: disability-informed response programs.

This measure would recognize the significance of disability-informed response programs in promoting public safety and community trust. The measure would also commend the efforts of law enforcement agencies that have implemented disability-informed response programs in consultation with disability communities.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month is celebrated each year in July and commemorates the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the landmark legislation that advanced inclusion and accessibility in American society; and

WHEREAS, Interactions between law enforcement and people with disabilities often present unique challenges, with the National Alliance on Mental Illness reporting that one in four people with a serious mental illness have been arrested, resulting in more than 2,000,000 jail bookings each year; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies across California are implementing innovative programs to better serve every member of the community with care and understanding, which helps families feel safer and better supported in critical situations; and

WHEREAS, Several police departments have launched voluntary identification programs, such as a special needs sticker program that provides visual indicators to help an officer identify the residence of an individual who may require a specific communication approach or accommodation; and

WHEREAS, These programs aim to prevent misunderstandings during a law enforcement interaction by providing an officer with advance knowledge about the person with whom they are interacting so the officer can adjust their communication methods and response strategies; and

WHEREAS, As noted by Whittier Police Chief Aviv Bar, this information helps officers to adjust their approach and consider the involvement of additional resources, such as a mental health evaluation team; and

WHEREAS, The cost of a special needs sticker program is minimal and community member participation is voluntary; and

WHEREAS, A special needs sticker program is a model of outstanding work from our police officers in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Multiple California law enforcement agencies, including the police departments in the Cities of Downey, Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, Seal Beach, Red Bluff, Gardena, Tehachapi, Burbank, and Culver City, have already implemented a special needs sticker program; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California recognizes the significance of disability-informed response programs in promoting public safety and community trust; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature reaffirm its commitment to promote the safety, dignity, and full inclusion of Californians with disabilities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.