

# SB1491



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1491

Introduced 1/31/2025, by Sen. Mary Edly-Allen

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

50 ILCS 705/10.17

Amends the Illinois Police Training Act. Requires the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to develop a course and certification program for certified therapy dog teams consisting of officers employing the use of therapy dogs in relation to crisis and emergency response.

LRB104 05067 RTM 15095 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Police Training Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 10.17 as follows:

6 (50 ILCS 705/10.17)

7 Sec. 10.17. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) ~~intervention~~  
8 ~~team~~ training; mental health awareness training; certified  
9 therapy dog team training and certification.

10 (a) The Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board  
11 shall develop and approve a standard curriculum for certified  
12 training programs in crisis intervention, including a  
13 specialty certification course of at least 40 hours,  
14 addressing specialized policing responses to people with  
15 mental illnesses. The Board shall conduct Crisis Intervention  
16 Team (CIT) training programs that train officers to identify  
17 signs and symptoms of mental illness, to de-escalate  
18 situations involving individuals who appear to have a mental  
19 illness, and connect that person in crisis to treatment.  
20 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training programs shall be a  
21 collaboration between law enforcement professionals, mental  
22 health providers, families, and consumer advocates and must  
23 minimally include the following components: (1) basic

1 information about mental illnesses and how to recognize them;  
2 (2) information about mental health laws and resources; (3)  
3 learning from family members of individuals with mental  
4 illness and their experiences; and (4) verbal de-escalation  
5 training and role-plays. Officers who have successfully  
6 completed this program shall be issued a certificate attesting  
7 to their attendance of a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)  
8 training program.

9 (b) The Board shall create an introductory course  
10 incorporating adult learning models that provides law  
11 enforcement officers with an awareness of mental health issues  
12 including a history of the mental health system, types of  
13 mental health illness including signs and symptoms of mental  
14 illness and common treatments and medications, and the  
15 potential interactions law enforcement officers may have on a  
16 regular basis with these individuals, their families, and  
17 service providers including de-escalating a potential crisis  
18 situation. This course, in addition to other traditional  
19 learning settings, may be made available in an electronic  
20 format.

21 (c) The Board shall develop a course and certification  
22 program for certified therapy dog teams consisting of officers  
23 employing the use of therapy dogs in relation to crisis and  
24 emergency response. This program shall aim to ensure that  
25 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers and therapy dog teams  
26 are available in various regions throughout the State to be

1 dispatched in the event of a crisis.

2       The amendatory changes to this Section made by Public Act  
3 101-652 shall take effect January 1, 2022.

4 (Source: P.A. 101-652, eff. 7-1-21; 102-28, eff. 6-25-21.)