

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 342

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO PROVIDE AN
 2 INDIVIDUAL WHO REASONABLY APPEARS TO EXHIBIT BEHAVIORAL OR MENTAL
 3 HEALTH ISSUES A MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE
 4 INDIVIDUAL'S ARREST; TO REQUIRE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO TAKE
 5 THE INDIVIDUAL TO A MEDICAL FACILITY FOR TREATMENT; TO REQUIRE AT
 6 LEAST TWO EMPLOYEES OF EVERY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND JAIL OR
 7 PRISON TO RECEIVE ANNUAL CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) TRAINING;
 8 TO REQUIRE THE BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER STANDARDS AND
 9 TRAINING TO PROMULGATE RULES RELATING TO CIT TRAINING; AND FOR
 10 RELATED PURPOSES.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) Whenever a law enforcement officer arrests
 13 an individual who reasonably appears to exhibit behavioral or
 14 mental health issues, the law enforcement agency must provide the
 15 individual with a mental health evaluation within twenty-four (24)
 16 hours of arrest. If the mental health evaluation reveals a need
 17 for behavioral or mental health medication, the law enforcement
 18 agency must take the necessary steps to ensure that the individual
 19 has access to the medication and must take the individual to a
 20 medical facility for appropriate treatment.

21 (2) In order to facilitate the mental health evaluation and
 22 treatment required by subsection (1) of this section, every law



23 enforcement agency, including every city, county and regional jail
24 or prison, must employ at least two (2) persons who have received
25 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. Such employees shall
26 receive at least eight (8) hours CIT training annually.

27 (3) The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and
28 Training shall promulgate rules and regulations to establish
29 minimum standards for CIT training, including the approval of
30 schools or programs that may be attended by an officer charged
31 with receiving CIT training.

32 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
33 and after July 1, 2018.

